

2-25-1977

## The Hilltop 2-25-1977

Hilltop Staff

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"Power concedes  
nothing  
without a demand"  
-Frederick Douglass

# The Hilltop

"THE VOICE OF THE HOWARD COMMUNITY"

## Hilltop Highlights

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25 February 1977

## Haley Tells Howard Of Gambia Purchase For Memorial Park

By Katherine Barrett  
Hilltop Staffwriter

Author Alex Haley told a capacity filled Cramton Auditorium, last Monday, that he and his brothers, with the aid of the Gambian government, have bought some land in Gambia (West Africa) on which they plan to build a Kinte Memorial Park.

The park will contain a mosque to be designed by the author's youngest brother, Julius Haley, who is a graduate of Howard University's School of Architecture and City Planning, Haley said.

Also, in honor of Haley's work, the government of Gambia is going to turn the village of Jufure, the same village Haley's ancestor Kunta Kinte came from, into a National Monument.

Haley also announced that he is now in the process of producing a record called "Alex Haley Speaks." The record will be similar to the two-hour presentation he made at Cramton, discussing the events that led to, and the experiences during his twelve years of research and writing *Roots*.

The cover of the album is described by Haley as "one of the most unusual" in as much as it will include duplications of the vital records that led to the writing and documentation of *Roots*.

Haley told the attentive audience that his knowledge of the names and words that

led him to write *Roots*, the book, began on his grandmother's front porch in Henning, Tennessee, and that that is, perhaps, why he refers to older people as, "our greatest source of strength."

Emphasizing the importance of Black heritage, Haley challenged the audience to "locate the oldest people in your family and ask them to tell you everything about your family," to "locate and preserve letters, ledgers, pictures, and clothing," and to "start holding family reunions."

Haley spoke, with some sensitivity, of his meeting with the "griot" who told the story of the Kinte clan. On that occasion Haley disclosed the griot said: "Yes, we have been told by our forefathers that there are many of us in exile in that place called America and in other places."

Haley received standing ovations both before and after his presentation. He was also awarded a plaque by the Liberal Arts Student Council, the sponsors of Project Awareness. Haley spoke as part of the Awareness program.

Tuesday, Haley was available at 10:30 in Cramton Auditorium to entertain questions or comments that were not dealt with in his presentation on Monday, and to cut part of his upcoming album that will tell of events leading to the production of *Roots*.



Alex Haley speaking at Cramton Auditorium

## HUSA Constitution Passes, Creates HUSA Vice Pres.

By Regina Lightfoot  
Hilltop Staffwriter

The draft constitution of the Howard University Student Association (HUSA) was adopted last Wednesday when 516 students, out of a total of 600, voted in support of the constitution which is said to have been designed to bring about changes in the structure of student government.

The constitution was revised because the previous constitution did not make sense according to Luther Brown, HUSA president. A new con-

stitution was needed also because of the immense division within student government and because of the inequity in the funding arrangement, he said.

Brown called the revised constitution "a major achievement in the struggle for a more responsive and effective student government."

The changes include the creation of a General Assembly, the creation of the position of HUSA vice-president, the allocation of funds, and the re-naming of two governing organizations. "The General Assembly will consist of a certain number of representatives from student councils based on the population of their schools," said Patti Woods, a member of the HUSA constitution committee.

She also said that the vice-presidents of the Student Councils will serve as representatives while the others will be elected at large.

The executive branch of HUSA will consist of the office of the president and also the office of the vice-president. Woods said, "We (committee) thought it would be better to divide the responsibility of HUSA between two persons."

The division of the \$65 Student Activity Fee per full time student will be as follows: Dr. Carl Anderson, Vice-president of Student Affairs \$22.75, he previously

See CONSTITUTION page 2

## International Law Week Held

By M.S. Pinkston  
Foreign News Editor

Dr. A. Luini del Russo, Director of the Program on the International Law of Human Rights at Howard University's School of Law, said at a symposium, Wednesday, that peaceful transition to majority rule, self determination for Namibia, and an end to apartheid or separate development are the three main issues regarding the situation in southern Africa.

The symposium, a feature of the Law School's "First Annual International Law Week," was organized by the William S. Thompson Society. The "Week," being marked by a series of panel discussions, ends Friday with a banquet to be held on the Dunbarton campus.

Dr. Arthur Rovin, Assistant Legal Advisor at the U.S. Department of State said that the white South Africans try to make an intellectual justification for apartheid.

Among the arguments made by representatives of the apartheid regime, as related by Dr. Rovin, are that first, International bodies have no right to interfere in the internal affairs of South Africa or in other words, the right of domestic jurisdiction.



Speaking Wednesday night during International Law Week were from (l-r) Dr. Absalom Vilakaze, Prof. American Univ., Dr. Arthur Rovin, Prof. of Law Harvard & Legal Advisor; U.S. Dept. of State, Dr. A. Luini del Russo, Prof. of Law Howard Univ.

Secondly, Dr. Rovin stated, white South Africans believe that bloodshed and chaos would result from any attempt to integrate the society. He said "I am skeptical of that." Thirdly, the racists of South Africa argue that once begun the whites would lose total control.

This argument is known as the "edge of the wedge" argument.

Fourthly, the government of John Vorster says that the white population would not allow any concessions made to the Black Africans. Dr.

Rovin asked the question, "What are they doing to change the attitude of the whites", and said that the "South African Government is maintaining the attitudes existing among whites."

Lastly, government officials argue in favor of the interests of the few, stating that "apartheid is based on the conception that people are different." The whites continue this argument saying that the standard of living for Blacks in South Africa is higher than in any other independent Black nation.

Dr. Rovin said that "this argument is not relevant." Dr. Arthur Rovin concluded his statements saying that South Africa "is a system collapsing, it's a matter of time."

Also speaking at the symposium was Dr. Absalom Vilakaze, a South African in exile, who is currently teaching at American University. Dr. Vilakaze began saying that southern Africa "now is the flashpoint of political confrontation between two groups. One group are the Blacks who are anti-colonialist, socialist, and humanist."

The other group are the whites who are colonialist in temperament, racist and refuse to recognize human dignity and human rights."

He continued, saying that the system of South Africa is an "affront to all men of color" which seeks to maintain white privilege, the privileges of wealth, political power, and social power.

Dr. Vilakaze stated that "the Black Churches in Africa were the first to argue for their own identity and their human and political rights," adding that the liberation groups are willing to accept whites in Africa. "Some of them are as African as we are." He said that the argument for the protection of minority rights is evidence of the latent racism in the West.

"The minorities in southern Africa have done nothing to protect majority rights," the South African in exile said, adding, "everytime the people have stood up against oppression they have been shot down."

Thursday night those attending the conference listened to a panel composed of African Diplomats

## AACC Secretary Asks Amin To Allow Autopsy Of Recent Uganda Deaths

From News Dispatches

Canon Burgess Carr, General Secretary of the All-Africa Conference of Churches, Tuesday called on Ugandan President Idi Amin, to permit independently carried out autopsies on the bodies of Anglican Archbishop Janani Lumum and two Ugandan Cabinet Ministers who died in Uganda last week.

In a telegram to President Amin, Canon Carr said: "The only means of removing the blemish which their death has inflicted upon Uganda is for the bodies to be exhumed and an autopsy performed by an independent international medical panel."

Referring to President Amin's offer to allow an investigation, Canon Carr said: "The AACC will give its firm and full support to any delegation from the Organization of African Unity (OAU) or other international body that is determined to expose the whole truth behind recent

and past atrocities in Uganda."

Archbishop Lumum, Interior Minister Oboth Othumbi and Land Minister Erinyo Oryema were officially reported in Uganda to have died in a car crash after being arrested on charges of plotting against the state. The report had met with widespread disbelief.

In Dar es Salaam, Tanzania the Archbishop of the Tanzanian Anglican Church John Sepeku appealed to Christians in Uganda and friends of Ugandan Archbishop Lumum to refrain from avenging his death and leave the matter to God.

In a sermon he delivered during a memorial service for the late Archbishop, Sepeku said he had no doubt that the Archbishop had died a martyr.

Archbishop Sepeku said the murder of Dr. Lumum had been prompted by Ugandan President Idi Amin's dislike for nationwide preparations for next June's Centenary celebrations of the Anglican Church in Uganda.

Last Monday, Amin invited "any Government" to send a delegation to investigate the deaths. Amin blasted critics who said Lumum and the two Cabinet Ministers were killed deliberately, not the victims of an auto accident. He said calm has returned to Uganda since the reported coup attempt he charged led to the three men's death.

The President repeated previous charges that a "group of desperate men," including the Archbishop and the Cabinet Ministers, intended to wipe out a large number of Ugandans in a foiled coup attempt.

Amin sent a telegram to William Eteki, Secretary General of the 48-nation Organization of African Unity, calling reports about the deaths of the three men "exaggerated Zionist propaganda."

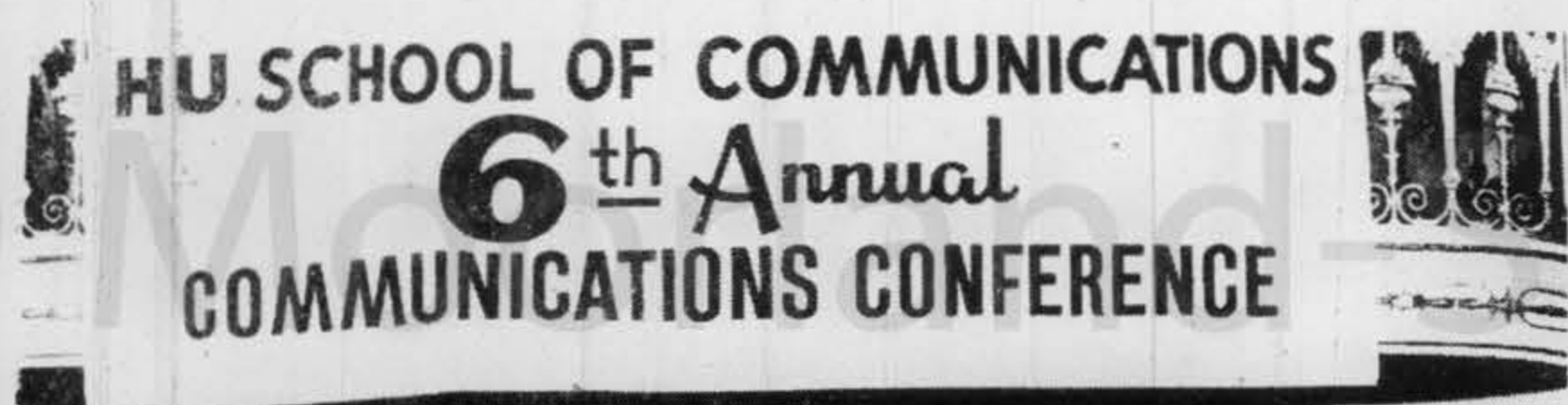
"Any government is welcome to send a delegation to Uganda to see what has taken place," he said.

Britain, Canada, Australia

See AMIN page 2

See LAW page 2

## Confab: A Unique Experience



Conference Coordinator Peggy Pinn, along with Lyndrey Niles, School of Communications Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, at the Conference Banquet.

By Fred Hines  
Hilltop News Editor

It's all over now, but for many, memories of the Sixth Annual Communications Conference will last forever. The organizers of the confab selected "Retrospection Projection" as this year's theme and they are confident that it was the best attended, organized conference in the history of Howard.

Although she said there is room for improvement, Conference Coordinator Peggy Pinn said "I know it was a success." Out of the 978 people who registered for the confab, Ms. Pinn said, approximately 800 were students.

One of the highlights of the conference was the Banquet held on Saturday night, with Basil Patterson, former vice chairman of the Democratic National Committee, as the keynote speaker.

Although he geared most of his speech to students who will be seeking careers in communications, there appeared to be more professionals in attendance than

students, particularly Howard University students. Patterson told those in attendance that "we have to know who makes the decisions. It is the editors behind the scenes."

He gave figures that would indicate why the news we read, see, and hear comes to us the way it does. "There are 46 Black owned radio stations out of a total of 8100. In the area of television there is only one Black owned out of 960."

A feature of the conference was the publication of a daily newspaper "The New North Star," named after a newspaper started by Frederick Douglass during slavery time called "The North Star."

Ms. Pinn said the students who put out the daily paper "should be commended for the outstanding effort that they put forth." The new equipment in journalism department aided them in putting out the publication.

During the Freedom's Journal Branch, the Freedom's Journal Essay Contest

See CONFAB page 2

## HU Not Member of UNCF Because Money Received From Government

By Brigitte Rouson  
Hilltop Staffwriter

Howard University is ineligible for funds from the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) because the university is not a member of the group. It therefore does not share in the millions of dollars raised each year by the group, University and UNCF officials disclosed this week.

The lack of contributions from the College Fund is reportedly more than offset by the University's own fund raising efforts which are under the direction of Dr. Roger D. Estep, Vice-President for Development and University Relations.

The effect of not receiving U.N.C.F. funds, said Estep, "is that Howard's free to pursue its philanthropic activities without the restric-

tions (that would be) imposed on it by the Fund. Our own individual fund raising is a significant percentage of the total U.N.C.F. funds for all its (members)."

While U.N.C.F. raises a total of between \$10 and \$12 million each year to divide between its 41 member institutions, over \$17 million has been generated in the last four years for supporting Howard University alone, said Estep.

The United Negro College Fund, established in 1944 with Howard University as one of its founding members, is a national "umbrella" organization which seeks and distributes contributions for the 41 private Black colleges and universities included in its membership. The late Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson, former Howard University president, was in-



Dr. Roger Estep, V.P. for University Development

strumental in initiating the U.N.C.F., according to Dr. Michael Winston, Director of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center.

Although the group represents many of the estimated 76 Black private higher

## M.W. Johnson Memorial Fund Receives Little Student Input Despite Campaign

By Carla Shaw  
Hilltop Staffwriter

Despite efforts of the Mordecai Wyatt Johnson Memorial Fund Gift Campaign total Howard University student contributions to the Fund amount to less than one per cent of all donations to date, reported Dr. Roger Estep, Vice President for Development and University Relations.

As of January 31, 1977, \$30,294.00 had been donated by alumni and individual contributors to the Mordecai Wyatt Johnson Memorial Fund. Howard students and their families gave a total of \$41.00 to the Fund.

The Family Gift Campaign was intended to generate financial gifts to the Johnson Fund from Howard students and their families. According to Dr. Estep, letters were

mailed to students last December so that they could take them home over the Christmas break. "We were hoping our students would encourage their parents and friends to contribute to the Fund," Estep said. "We were using the students as a vehicle. It was more personal that way."

Out of approximately 10,000 letters addressed to Howard parents and students, only six families responded. Dr. Estep said that he hopes this will "change drastically," and that students and parents will "respond to the Fund in greater numbers." He added that it is particularly important to understand that the amount of money each individual gives is less important than the number of participants.

See FUND page 2



# NEWS...CAMPUS/LOCAL

## UNCF Not Shared By HU

U.N.C.F. from page 1

not now a part of the Fund, two U.N.C.F. spokespersons said that a likely reason is Howard's large federal appropriation. One executive said the Fund does not include "tax-supported institutions."

Howard's federal appropriation comprises about fifty-five per cent of its total budget. Although this percentage has fluctuated little over the years, the dollar amount has increased tremendously, going from \$11 million to \$77 million in the ten-year period from 1965 to 1975.

Officials both at the University and at U.N.C.F., however, hastened to say that Howard is considered a "pri-

vate," not a public institution due to its charter.

"It is in Howard's best interest not to be in the U.N.C.F.," said Mrs. Marie Butler, assistant to Vice President Estep. The College Fund restricts fund raising activities of its members and uses a formula in distributing money collected by the organization, she said.

That formula may well be one of the reasons the University decided to withdraw, according to several administrative sources. Enrollment figures are important in the formula for allocating funds among member U.N.C.F. institutions, according to Estep. And even in the 1940s, when Howard reportedly moved to exclude itself

from the group, the University had a student enrollment significantly higher than many other Black institutions, said Dr. Lorraine Williams, the Vice President for Academic Affairs who is well-respected for her knowledge of history.

Thus, Howard might have gotten a "disproportionate amount" of funds in comparison to the smaller schools which made up U.N.C.F. membership, Estep concluded.

In addition, it was felt that since Howard got annually a significant portion of its funds from the federal government, unlike other U.N.C.F. schools, its needs were less than those of other members.

## Amin Invites Investigations of Deaths

AMIN from page 1

and other governments have called for a high level international investigation. Canon Burgess Carr, General Secretary of the AACC, said the first step toward diplomatic isolation of Amin should be a boycott of this week's meeting in Uganda, of African, Caribbean and Pacific countries trying to develop closer links between Third World nations and the European Economic Community. But Uganda radio said many delegations already have arrived and more are en route to the talks.

Amin denounced Carr as a "microphone for Zionism, who is in the same category as John Vorster and Ian Smith." Canon Carr's "open and malicious campaign of dirty lies against Uganda in the imperialist news media" came when Uganda was in such a "dangerous and hysterical state," the President said.

The telegram continued: "For a long time we have

known that Burgess Carr speaks neither for the African Churches nor for himself. He is a microphone for the imperialist, the divisionist and the Zionist in Africa."

He accused Canon Carr of not practicing what he preached, calling him an opportunist using religion "just to make a living." "Canon Carr and the Archbishop of Canterbury have not set foot in Uganda," President Amin pointed out, and accused both church leaders of "listening to rumors and the lies of exiles."

The Tanzanian press reported that Idi Amin personally shot Archbishop Lujum during a torture session, because the churchman refused to confess he plotted a coup against Amin.

Amin's soldiers stripped and whipped the Rt. Rev. in the presence of Amin and a group of his lieutenants. Tanzania's *Daily News* said in a story from a special correspondent in Kampala, Uganda.

According to the paper, Lujum's murmured prayers and denials of guilt during the torture session enraged the Ugandan President, who beat the handcuffed Archbishop and shouted wildly that "God had empowered him to give the Archbishop and other church leaders the last warning." The report was quoting "reliable sources."

There "followed very bizarre, sacrilegious and obscene activities, during which Amin pulled out his pistol and shot the Archbishop twice on the left side of the chest," the *Daily News* said. He died instantly.

The *Daily News* said the Archbishop was arrested by military police led by a Major Moses, described as the adjutant of the Makindwe military barracks. Uganda's version of the three men's deaths said they overpowered a man by the same name who was the military escort driving the car in which they had an accident.

## Hotline Helps Develop Strategies For Coping



Photo by Bernard Gavin

Russel Brown, the man behind the H.U. Hotline

By Patrice E. Lee  
Hilltop Staffwriter

to help with immediate problems, if the situation calls for long term assistance the caller would be referred by volunteers to a professional counselor, Brown said.

"The hotline is a facilitator who tries to get the person to develop strategies for coping. A crisis is something you're having trouble dealing with, and can be anything from stubbing your toe to dying," said Brown giving insight into the service.

Although a log records the time, date, and length of the call received, and the sex of the caller, and then briefly

classified, as a personal problem or referral, the log itself is used primarily for training purposes. Brown said that no calls were recorded.

Part of the confidentiality concept concerns the caller not knowing where the hotline is located as well as the hotliner not knowing where or who the caller is.

"This provides safety for both the volunteer and the caller, and gives the caller the assurance that 'his problem will not be spread all over campus,'" Brown said.

Said J. a former hotliner, who preferred anonymity, so callers nor hotliners would feel a trust had been violated, "It requires you to be open and not pass judgement while citing the individual's options."

"You don't see the person, don't you know the person, but you're trying to match up solutions."

Brown said that it was difficult to estimate the average number of weekly calls or the most common type of calls received while saying that the number of calls depended on how well publicized the service is.

Although J. agreed that the average amount of calls was dependent on how much the services is publicized and how many people know it's available, she said,

"When we have been heavy into publicity, we've gotten a lot of phone calls, maybe upwards to 100 calls a day."

J. said the types of calls could be divided into major groups — the campus and community. She said that among the community calls were a few suicide calls, crank calls, plus the usual calls about problems with school, man-woman problems, as well as job, food and housing referrals.

J. said the campus calls usually were concerned with man-woman relationships, problems with roommates,

and problems of insecurity, although she emphasized that some callers called just to talk. "Not everyone has a good friend they can talk with about anything."

Hotline service is available from 10 am - 10 pm, Monday-Friday. When the lines are unmanned, a recording will tell the caller he or she can either leave their name and phone number on the code-o-phone, in which case the call will be returned as soon as possible, or the caller is referred to the Northern Virginia Hotline which is open 24 hours.

## Internat'l Law Week

LAW from page 1

from the Embassies of Nigeria, Kenya, Sudan, Ivory Coast, and Tanzania. The panel was chaired by Dr. Horace Dawson, the Assistant Director for the United States Information Agency in Africa.

Tonight Congresswoman Cordiss Collins, a member of the House International

Relations Subcommittee of Africa, will be the principal speaker at a forum at 7:00 p.m. in the A. Mercer Daniel Library on the Dunbarton Campus.

The First Annual International Law Week will conclude with a "special expert speaker on African Affairs" in the Houston Hall Dining Room, at Dunbarton beginning 8:30 p.m. tonight.

## Contributions Meager

FUND from page 1

Estep maintained that if students are encouraged to participate in the funding of Howard University while still in attendance here, they will continue to contribute as alumni. He said alumni and friends of the University provide a large portion of the University's funds.

The Mordecai Wyatt Johnson Memorial fund, which originated shortly after Dr. Johnson's death, has a goal to raise \$1 million in five

years. Monies from the Fund are to be used to provide financial aid scholarships to at least one student in each of Howard's 17 schools and colleges. The Fund will also support an annual Mordecai Wyatt Johnson Lecture Series.

"It is important that the students understand the nature of giving," Estep said. "We have a lot of work to do in order to move from where we are to where we want to be."

## Conference Was Success

CONFAB from page 1

winners were awarded, including Hilltop Sports Editor Peter Harris who won second place, Kenneth Campbell, of East Carolina University, and Evelyn Bailey, of Clark College took first and third places respectively.

None of the professional guests were paid stipends to

attend the conference, according to Ms. Pinn, although they received tickets to the events and their hotel rooms were paid for.

Many students were surprised to find out that they had only two interviews set up out of twenty-two recruiters, but rescheduling for additional interviewing

was possible.

Ms. Pinn attributes the decline in the amount of firms represented at the conference (as high as 90 firms during the second conference in 1972, according to the *Souvenir Journal*) to the charging of a fee for firms appearing at the conference.

## News From Black Schools

By Arlene Waifer

### Morehouse College

An \$8,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan has been granted to Morehouse College "to improve library services" according to college President Dr. Hugh M. Gloster.

Gloster said this grant will be utilized to allow substantial improvement of services now offered to students and other library users.

Also several psychology courses have been created at Morehouse, "to give students a new insight in the physiological avenue of psychology," the *Maroon Tiger* reports.

The course will enable students to "combine basic physiological and psychological concepts learned in class and apply them to test animals," according to the *Tiger*.

Dr. Weber-Levine, Morehouse's resident physiological/psychobiologist feels that "psychology courses stress the study of personality," but we also must remember that "we are a chemical and biological organism." She added that if we know "about the way an organism functions we can learn more about the psychological aspect of it."

### Southern University

The Southern University dining facility, Parker Hall,

has been temporarily shut down by the administration due to disrepair, according to the *Digest*.

Bad odors, weak flooring, and the rupturing of rotted pipes are some of the problems cited by students. Also the maintenance crew of the University had to pump water from under the building to decrease water build-up from the ruptures.

The structure which was built in 1932, is one of two dining facilities for on campus residents.

In the opinion of students, the *Digest* reports that "Parker Hall is beyond repair," and according to one food service member "the only feasible solution is to raze the present structure and build new dining facilities."

Other alternatives to an eating facility for Southern proposed at a committee meeting were using the student union cafeteria, (this was rejected because of "inadequate equipment") or using the Octavia dining area, a facility used for athletes, according to Clarence M. Collier, Vice President of Student Affairs.

A.N. Kennedy, Vice President of finance and business stated, "We did not know that this emergency was going to come about." He also told the committee that "getting equipment ready to feed the on campus students in the student union cafeteria could take all summer to effect conversion."

The *Digest* also reports

that the Louisiana legislature "approved 1.3 million to start building a replacement for Parker Hall, but reportedly this was not enough."

However also according to the *Digest* "a minimum of \$2.2 million is needed to complete such a reinforcement." Southern "plans to ask for an additional \$98,000 to fully finance the new dining hall."

### Winston-Salem

High cost of tuition, problems with "low quantity and bad quality," dining hall meals, and a "lousy" social life are some factors which are leading to a student "exodus" from on campus housing facilities at WSSU, a *New Argus* commentary reports.

This situation has led to campus housing becoming less of a problem. The *Argus* also reports that "students find that it is an advantage to them as well as to their parents to move off campus."

Also a \$50 increase in the fee for boarding students has made the total in-state tuition \$1,818 and the total out-of-state tuition \$3,271.

Other factors mentioned in students leaving campus were escape "from the same surroundings of campus life," "studying when you feel like it without all the interruptions of loud music" and preparation for life in the outside world after college by living off campus.

Woods.

She also said that all HUSA elections shall be held at the same time to avoid problems.

"After the elections are held there will be two transitional meetings to familiarize the newly elected officials with the structure of the organization and with past future plans," Woods said.

All student councils will be required to revise their constitution where it conflicts with the new constitution.

## Revision To Bring Changes

CONSTITUTION from page 1

received \$27,000 (HUSA) Executive Office General Assembly \$0., previously received \$3.; Undergraduate Student Association/Graduate Student Association \$10.01, previously received \$12.; Student councils \$15., the figure will remain the same; Bison yearbook \$7.80, previously \$8.

The names of the Undergraduate Student Association (UGSA) and the Graduate

Association (GSA) have been changed to the Undergraduate Student Assembly and the Graduate Student Assembly.

The collective union of all student government structures shall constitute the Howard University Student Association (HUSA) not one body within the Association.

"All student councils, UGSA and GSA will be under the name HUSA, so wherever HUSA appears in the constitution it refers to all the proponents of the student government," said

# ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH CHARTER DAY CELEBRATION

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1977

Charter Day Dinner

Sheraton-Park Hotel

2660 Woodley Road, N.W. Washington, D.C.

7:00 p.m.

VERNON E. JORDAN, JR.

Executive Director National Urban League,

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 1977

Charter Day Convocation

Cramton Auditorium

University Campus 11:00 a.m.

SPEAKER

THE HONORABLE ANDREW YOUNG

AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS

TICKETS

\$100.00 per person (\$75.00 tax deductible) per person 25.00 per person Student rate  
For reservations for individuals and student organizations contact

Department of Alumni Affairs

686-6693 or 636-7867



# EDITORIALS/LETTERS

## High Court Out of Touch

The United States Supreme Court is out of step with the people. The bench is presently composed of four Nixon appointees. And, we believe their recent court ruling clearly reflects the mentality of the man who appointed them.

Tuesday, the high court agreed to review a California decision that a special program to help minority students enter medical school denied equal protection of the law to whites.

Reports carried in local newspapers here indicated that the justices agreed without comment to consider this fall a California Supreme Court decision that by setting aside 16 to 100 places in each new class for minority applicants, the medical school of the University of California at Davis had discriminated against a white student, solely because of race.

The California high court, in a 6 to 1 ruling, said the university had rejected this white student's application for admission though, by its own standards, he was better qualified than some minority students it had enrolled.

If the United States Supreme Court sides with the position of the California high court's earlier ruling there may be a return to all-white professional education in the major universities of this country.

At present, there are numerous affirmative-action plans throughout the country that assist minorities in entering the medical profession. Take away these programs and you drastically affect the number of active Black doctors in this

country.

And Black people would once again find themselves in the unjust positions of not having adequate representation in the professional fields.

Just as there appears to be a move to limit the number of Blacks in the professional area of medicine, there most assuredly will come racially motivated efforts to reduce or eliminate Blacks from careers in law, science, and business.

This is why Howard University's medical, dental, and law schools must be kept alive. These departments, in conjunction with numerous other graduate and professional areas of study on this campus, cannot be allowed to fold; thus, threatening the productivity and longevity of the Black race.

The courageous efforts and monumental gains of the 60s would all be setback and that spells trouble for the future of the Black community.

Blacks continue to be victims of a judicial system that pardons the likes of Nixon and imprisons innocent minorities.

If the Nixon influence is allowed to freely rule the highest court in the land, then the judicial system here is nothing but a farce.

We believe the Supreme Court and all other departments of the judicial process must be forced to comply with their own rules of order. When errors are made and injustices are allowed to persist, it is the Black community which must rise up and take a stand for the preservation of their rights.

## Constitution's Endurance?

After three years without an effective, functional constitution, HUSA has finally completed and students approved a new constitution. HUSA president Luther Brown called the revised constitution "a major achievement in the struggle for a more responsive and effective student government here at Howard University."

For years we have watched and waited for a government which could effectively organize itself so that the student government and the student body might see a new day. It has been three years since HUSA was broken down and the constitution reorganization authorized by the Board of Trustees. Student government had been functioning without a fully approved constitution which satisfied both the Board of Trustees and student government leaders.

The revision process began immediately after the election of the HUSA president as one of his major plans and continued throughout the summer. The document was completed in September and was opened for student input. The First semester provided opportunity for student input to be collected and incorporated. Finally in February, the constitution was overwhelmingly approved by the student body (542-96).

The changes in the new constitution included the creation of a General Assembly, the creation of a HUSA vice-president, a different allocation of funds and the renaming of two governing organizations. The General Assembly consists of a certain number of representatives from student

councils based on the population of their schools.

The new constitution will in a sense centralize student government. It will provide HUSA with more resources to do its job and will not place the HUSA president at the mercy of other units of student government. We wonder about that part of the revision.

The division of the \$65 student activity fee per full time student will be allocated differently. Dr. Carl Anderson, vice president for student affairs will receive \$22.75 where as before it was \$27; HUSA Executive Office \$0, where as it was \$3; The undergraduate Student Association/Graduate Student Association \$10.01 where as it was \$12; Bison yearbook \$7.80 where as it was \$8. The student council figure will remain the same.

The names of the Undergraduate Student Association (UGSA) and the Graduate Student Association (GSA) have been changed to the Undergraduate Student Assembly and Graduate Student Assembly.

There was a definite need for student government to have a constitution. However, we are cognizant of the fact that constitutions have been implemented one year and tossed out a few years later. We know that student government has transitory winds and what one administration might like a new one might not. We all have a desire for distinction. We all want to make our own mark in the world. The Hilltop wonders if this constitution is approved by the Board of Trustees how long will it last?

## Mr. Howard Thanks You All

Dear Editor:

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the president, faculty, and student body of Howard University for allowing me to represent you as Mr. Howard University 1976-77.

As we all know, Mr. Howard University has only been in existence for two years. Therefore, we are still in our

primary stages of development in the Howard community. I really think that since the existence of Mr. Howard University, we have really accomplished a lot.

Since Mr. Howard University is still in its primary stages, Mr. Howard does not receive the recognition that Ms. Howard does, but I feel this will be changed in time.

Since the beginning of my academic life, I have been an ac-

tive member of some type of organization. Deep, down inside, I feel I have been accepted by the Howard student body as both their representative and spokesman.

My main objective has been unity, in working hand in hand with all organizations represented here at Howard. Now that there is both Mr. and Ms. Howard University, they should work together with all school activities, in order that they may

both be recognized as representatives of the university.

If Mr. and Ms. Howard both project togetherness to the top of the hierarchical structure here at the university, a lot more can be accomplished in Howard's development.

Thank you

Kenny Anderson  
Mr. Howard University  
1976-77

## Say No to the Draft

Dear Editor:

Attention: All Men Under 25 Several Senators on The Senate Armed Services Committee have just expressed a desire to reinstate the draft.

Apparently they have already forgotten what the last draft did to our country. They have forgotten the riots and the discontent on college campuses throughout the country. They

have already forgotten what happened at Kent State. They have already forgotten the war in Vietnam.

For a draft means a large Army. A large Army leads to war. War leads to destruction and dissent. What better example than Vietnam. They say our military is not large enough.

The next war, and I hope we never do have one, will not

require large land armies. Is this the way they intend to solve the unemployment situation?

The President has just pardoned the draft evaders. Do they want to create a new list. How will they explain the deaths of another 40,000 to 50,000 of our young men to their parents? They couldn't justify it to the parents of the boys killed in Vietnam.

I say "NO" to the draft and all

that it means. This is your personal war. If we are attacked, "YES". Until then... "HELL NO, WE WON'T GO!"

Write to your Senator and Congressmen today! Let them know how the youth of America feels about this, for it is you they are talking about.

H. Nichols  
1182 Woodland Lane  
Seaford, N.Y. 11783

## We Must Appeal to Each Other

Dear Editor:

I have been guided to your medium under the auspices of Mr. Jefferson, Director, Office of Community Affairs...in whose opinion I "will receive the maximum response," from editorializing my appeal through the Hilltop.

As I am ignorant as to just what type of format you employ, whether this letter is to be published as it is, or "edited" to discern the gist and thus published, my hopes are that my theme will be introduced to those brothers (and especially those sisters)...whose empathetic regard is of a keen sense.

Being in prison and particularly sensitive to the ever budding seeds of spiritual and social digression which seems to grip not a few (but many) of the growing population of brothers ill-fated to experience the mental anguish as prevalent here, I am pained that those sisters, and brothers, who, although even they are struggling to perceive the rewards of growth, at least are in a position to offer moral reinforcement to us, seem apathetic.

I entertain no fantasy as to the often apparent callousness displayed by more than a few of our men...yes, our women should resist that, at the same time, however, we should be

perceptive enough to recognize that this "trauma" may more readily be attributed to those misconceptions and insecurities perpetuated by ignorance. I should think that many more disappointments, many more heartbreaks, will be realized before the dawning of a new light...but we must strive as a people, with the inconsistencies, to survive a strange even gruesome, alienation.

So I am directing my appeal to the community...and with especial hope of appeal to the sisters, to at least effort some communications with at least a few of the brothers here at Petersburg.

There are a few brothers here

with quite a bit of potential...a few who, as myself, yearn to have the reinforcement of a woman's perspective, the helpful vision of another brother who has perhaps treaded the same waters. Is this too much to ask of our own?

Your replies may be directed to me at the address noted below. I thank you for the brothers here...and myself.

Peace-  
Anthony Greene  
Federal Corr. Inst.  
P.O. Box 1000-ELI  
Carolina Hall  
Petersburg, Virginia 23803

## Shaw 11 Case Transcends Student Rights

Dear Editor:

When you receive this letter OUR LOVE is directed to your health and the positive continuance of the Hilltop Newspaper, the vital communication tool of the Howard community, your aspirations and goals.

WE, the SHAW 11 "students of life," interpret and experience the educational milieu as a life-long process. Being former students at Shaw University and inspired by the Shaw Plan of Education which was written by your brilliant President Dr. James E. Cheek during his administration at Shaw in the mid 60's, WE moved to make this plan a reality.

Within the plan the concepts professed the need of urban educational institutions to become centers for research and community services. Administering these services will be the student population so that their proficiency and leadership qualities can be developed. Understanding this knowledge put us in the position to mobilize and organize the apathetic students at Shaw as WE notice this mood of lifelessness and nonproductivity appeared evident in the higher education system, especially at black institutions.

To our surprise the administration which is influenced heavily by outside corporate interests discarded OUR movement and disallowed six students of OUR cadre from enrolling at Shaw for the 76-77 semester.

Even though WE approached the University through proper procedures by presenting OUR concepts in the nature of proposals. OUR Housing Association, OUR Employment Agency and the International

Cooperative Education program was presented to Shaw during the 76 semester but again WE were rejected.

The student body was concerned as OUR cadre was harassed by University officials and local police agencies. A petition was circulated amongst the students as out of 1400 students 350 signatures was accounted for in the demanding of a public meeting with the Shaw Family to discuss the "real problems" that exist.

This demand was again rejected which left US no choice but to implement confrontation politics. WE picketed the annual Board of Trustees meeting on November 11, 1976 and the corporate interest on November 23, 1976. Due to this final phase of activities WE were expelled and pressured to leave North Carolina and in doing so ventured to Washington D.C.

We felt confident as OUR Congressional representatives where contacted about the incidents and the State Department was sent a copy of the International Cooperative Education Program for funding. WE came to the Nation's Capitol to seek redress. There was no redress to be found. Comfort corruption permeates the halls of the Congress and Senate. We found that OUR pretentious representatives cherished the rhetoric of democracy but were motivated by imperialistic capitalism.

Premised by the weight of legislation ruling education as a privilege and not a right, they refused to represent OUR interests. This evident attempt at controlling access to knowledge and truth supported OUR hypothesis that there is a scheme to destroy democracy by stifling

High Education... We confronted OUR representatives as WE had OUR educators in an attempt to re-awaken some remnants of right.

As a result of sit-ins and peaceful demonstrations at the Capitol, WE were arrested and incarcerated.

At Our hearing WE faced the courts as the poor always face the courts unsure of what fate "blind justice" planned for US. Unable to call on the doctrine of Human Rights America reserves for it's rich, WE find ourselves relegated to the confines of the District of Columbia.

The Shaw 11 case transcends student rights, it marks an epoch in the universal struggle for human rights. And WE see that students even at Howard are being attacked, character assassinated and sued as in the present crisis that exists in the Law School.

Because of the lack of quality education, WE the future leaders of the world have the rights of call moratoriums, Picket classes and meetings, do whatever is necessary to attain freedom of voicing OUR concerns and reaching intelligent solutions to these problems. Because of this action the Student Leadership is sued.

As in the case of the Shaw 11 WE are being sued also, just because WE exercised OUR collective Will to make OUR dreams and the institutional's mission a reality.

Therefore out of an act of student solidarity WE need to mobilize and organize the students and communities in order to undertake ubiquitous defense efforts.

WE must be organized towards an unquenchable moral crusade which sounds a death

knell to suppressors of OUR Constitutional, Human and Student Rights and the pursuit of democracy, life, liberty and happiness.

We must make OUR brothers and sisters problems OUR problems and solve them together. As the African proverb states "IF YOU SEE A CROW IN YOUR NEIGHBOR'S CORN SHOO HIM AWAY, FOR TOMORROW HE MAY BE IN YOURS. JUNTOS TRIANFAREMOS, POMOJA TUTUSHINDA (TOGETHER WE WILL WIN.)

Yours in the Struggle,  
Pedro Sababu Romero  
Spokesman Shaw 11

## Editor's Note:

The Hilltop is only eight pages this week due to the length of our magazine Hilltop Extensions, which is twelve pages this month. Next week, The Hilltop will return to its regular format.

## Worried and In Need of Help

Dear Editor:

I, Ivanhoe J. Ellis, Jr. do swear that what I am saying is about the truth.

That I am being held here in this jail with a charge of attempted robbery on my back which the white man's court of law gave me. And I am not guilty as charged. These people have put me here to be killed and told the other inmate thing such as he's here to be raped anytime you want him. His mother is a whore and many more things to cause mental harm to me as well as physical harm. And this is just

what they are doing and because I don't have the money to fight these people back as I would, I am trying to get my sister and brothers to come to my aid before I am killed in this place.

At the time, they framed me, I was attending the Lareaze School of Business and working part time. When time came for me to be paroled they lied and said they couldn't find the information that I had given was true. So as a fellow member of the race of Black people, I am trying very hard to reach someone with this message before this thing happens to me.

My rights as an American Black has been misused by these white people's courts of law and there's nothing that I can do about it. There's more I can say but the main point is that I have been used and know one in this jail cares about me.

So I am getting my people to come here and get the letters I have written to you because I can't send out as the other inmates. If these words reach you than I am asking that the truth be made known. Also I am 30 years of age.

I fear for my life knowing that I could easily be killed someone else's defending my honors I feel that the only way to make this up is to try to get help of outsiders whom I think would come to the aid of myself. And I have letters from my job and the school would surely know that I was there.

Worried and in need of help to find a way to fight back.

Ivanhoe J. Ellis, Jr.  
Upper Marlboro Md.  
Upper Marlboro County Jail

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The opinions expressed in the editorials are those of the HILLTOP, and may not necessarily represent those of the administration or all segments of the Howard community at large.



# CULTURAL SPOTLIGHT

...concerts, profiles, reviews...



Author Wilfred Cartey

## Blindness No Handicap for Cartey

By Pat Maiden  
Hilltop Staffwriter

Dr. Wilfred Cartey is an outstanding black scholar who lectures and writes about the development of the black man's image along with his strength and power. He has lectured in the Caribbean and Africa, Europe and the Americas. In addition, he has written a

dozen books. Though Dr. Cartey is blind, he had done outstanding work as an author, poet, critic and international scholar. He wrote his first book in 1965, and has had many of his articles published in magazines and newspapers in countries all over the world.

Some of his publications include *Islands in the Sun*, *Whispers from a Continent*

and *Black Images*. His most recent book is entitled *Red Rain*. Last year Dr. Cartey taught at Howard University as a graduate professor in the Black Studies Department. He is now Professor of Comparative Literature at City University of New York.

Mr. Cartey was born in Port of Spain, Trinidad. He studied at University College of the West Indies in Jamaica before earning the MA and Ph. D. at Columbia University where he is Adjunct Professor of Comparative Literature.

E. Ethelbert Miller

## 'Poetry Is My Life'

By Tanya Henry  
Hilltop Staffwriter

The following is an interview with E. Ethelbert Miller, a progressive poet and Director of Howard University's Afro-American Resource Center. He received his B.A. degree in Afro-American studies from Howard in 1972. He is founder and director of the Ascension Poetry Reading Series, and associate editor of both HOO-DOO magazine and WASHINGTON REVIEW OF THE ARTS. In addition he is the Associate publisher of Energy Black South Press.

**Hilltop:** What personal immediate function does your position as director of the Resource Center have for you?

**Miller:** Working here is very important in terms of concentrating on obtaining material that will help students know more about African social and political systems. Over the last couple of months I've concentrated on getting books on South Africa, Zimbabwe and books and journals dealing with the relationship between Israel and South Africa.

**Hilltop:** How does your service aid the faculty and students?

**Miller:** What I usually have to do is push the material on people. You really have to take the material, break it down, show how it can be used and incorporated into the classroom.

For example, someone might come up here interested in some economic problem. Now if you can show him the international aspect of that problem, relate it to the problems of Africa, then you're operating the way you should be operating.

**Hilltop:** What personal immediate function does your poetry have for you?

**Miller:** Poetry is my life. People come in here and say, "Well you work in the



Ethelbert Miller, Poet, and Dir. Afro-am. Research Cent

Afro-American Resource Center." No, I write poetry. The Resource Center is second in terms of my personal priorities.

**Hilltop:** Is the Black artist having some type of crisis as far as his purpose is concerned? If so, what kind of crisis? As a result of what?

**Miller:** Speaking specifically about Black poetry and Black poets right now, I think there is a crisis. You have to go back and look at the Black arts movement of the late '60's. From my analysis, a lot of poets who came to the forefront, moved from the community to the college campus. In doing that, they moved away, for the most part, from the active political struggle. They became caught up in the student movement, which did reflect what was going on in the community, but still was not the forefront of the struggle. Over a period of time these poets became more conscious of craft because of academia, as opposed to the importance of the message. No longer do you get the work that is written to elevate people's consciousness. You get better poetry now. But I think the question always has to be: what is the purpose of the poetry? Who is it for?

**Hilltop:** Do you think that Black poets have some specific duty to fulfill?

**Miller:** I think the major duty that a Black poet has to fulfill is to write poetry. People have the tendency to work on being a poet, but not really working at the craft, at the study in terms of people who have written before you and people who are writing now.

**Hilltop:** Do you use direct or indirect criticism in your poetry?

**Miller:** Most of my earlier poems used direct criticism in terms of what's wrong, what needs to be done. Now I use both direct and indirect criticism. My poems have a lot more imagery. Sometimes the criticism is very, very subtle. Sometimes it's deliberately concealed.

**Hilltop:** Can you give an example of what you think a negative trait some Blacks have?

**Miller:** All things have a positive and negative trait. For example, someone would say homosexuality is negative. But look at what that has done to our society in terms of Black people; it has a negative and a positive side. Number one, it has totally redefined what women were, while at the same time totally redefining what men were. So what is manhood? Manhood must be something else. Personally I think Eldridge was negative when he was in the Black Panther Party. He came here to speak and I remember the profanity he was using and people were cheering him on. Now he's into Jesus and he's negative.

**Hilltop:** What religion do you belong to?

**Miller:** I was a Muslim so I

became very much influenced by Islam. Religion motivates. It had a lot to do with me organizing the Ascension Series; the name is religious.

Many of the people who helped me get started in poetry were very spiritual people. People involved in astrology, people who made a real investment in me. People who gave me all their books like Bob Stokes, who started the First Black theatre in D.C. and put on many of Amiri Baraka's earlier plays.

When I graduated, right outside, Bob said, "Well brother, now you begin your real education." I'll never forget.

**Hilltop:** Where should the most attention be focused as far as nation building is concerned?

**Miller:** It's hard to separate what you do first. There are so many things that need to be done, but I think the basic unit of the family is necessary.

We're at a point now where many Black women are becoming extremely independent. Don't need a man. A lot of women say I'm going to have a baby and later for the father, it's going to be mine.

We have a lot of things like that which can be detrimental to Black survival.

**Hilltop:** What's your diet?

**Miller:** In 1973 I tried to become a vegetarian. Gradually, I began to realize that food is not just nourishment and health, it also has a social function.

For example the average person away from home changes their diet. They go home Thanksgiving and the mother and the father are happy their child is home. They go through the whole trip, the big meal, family all together. Then they say, "I don't eat meat", and total rejections comes from the parents. People are being divided by food the same way they had been divided by ideologies.

I realized that vegetarianism was not practical for me. There were certain things I like. It went back to an incident that I never forgot. When I was in college we tried to get everybody out the dorms to participate in demonstrations. We knocked on this guy's door who was in the R.O.T.C. He opened the door and said, "You nigger's crazy", and slammed the door in our faces. But I respected him. In time of everything changing, he had his principles, he knew what he was about.

**Hilltop:** Do you feel there is any relevance to being identified as an African rather than an Afro-American?

**Miller:** It has always been said by many political leaders that as soon as Africa began to develop politically, people wanted to be associated with Africa. You just had "Roots," now a lot of people want to be known as Africans. That's good, but the world is getting smaller and what will happen is eventually, natural boundaries will disappear. It won't matter anymore what you are, except that you're a human being.

The problem is that we have not acted like human beings. This gets into nuclear armament, dealing with ecology, this gets down to dealing with the planet.

**Hilltop:** Comment on or read a poem about Africa.

**Miller:** I wrote a poem in 1974 called the 'The Land of

Cont. on page 5

## Bay Bay Portrays Black Emotion

By Fred Hines

Often when people look at oil paintings there is a mystique that reveals more about the individuals pictured than photographs can capture. Sometimes the artist is able to bring out the personality through various techniques. But in every instance the artist exposes certain characteristics of his own.

Mathew 'Bay Bay' Williams is at the top of the line, and in most of his work, his goal is to bring out all the intricacies of someone's total being. He appears as a quiet individual, eager to talk about his art work, but not so revealing about his business dealings. Some of his original work sits in the Mayflower Hotel Art Gallery.

Sporting a tan tam, Bay Bay, conflicts with the stereotypical image that many associate with artists. It is obvious that he doesn't have a scrap for his next meal or bum for the materials to complete his next painting.

After a period of drawing and painting portraits of such distinguished personalities as actor James

Whitmore, composer Ellington, actress Paula Kelly, Congressman Parren Mitchell, President Jimmy Carter, and others, he recognized his real ambition, to record certain types of people that portray a quality of life Americans are about to lose and forget — a quality measured, not by wealth or achievement, but by human character.

"A face that has the lines of having lived intensely, that expresses a phase of life, some outstanding quality or wisdom is for me an interesting face. A face of an aged person or one weathered by years of hard physical labor, perhaps not beautiful, is usually more appealing than the face of a person who has not really been challenged by life," thus Bay Bay explains his approach to the art.

Bay Bay, who says his name was given to him "affectionately" by his mother, was born in a small town in North Carolina in 1946. At an early age, with his mother and sister, he moved to New York City, where he wandered at random, observing and sketching. He then moved to Baltimore, where he grew

up. The amount of time it takes to complete a painting usually depends on the "amount of substance and how much I have been inspired by a particular subject. Sometimes it requires me only two weeks, whereas at another time I may be at it for two months."

Although he and his partner have been located in the Mayflower Hotel for six months, the revealing artist says that he has been drawing all of his life, but has been oil painting for twelve years.

By looking at his work, it is easy for one to detect that Bay Bay is a realist. But beyond that, he is a painter in the purest sense of the word. "I feel I have inspired a lot of Black people as well as whites to turn their attention on Blacks."

It was his oil "The Crying Child" that brought him to the attention of art lovers, critics and buyers. The oil depicts the profile of Black child against a black background. It emerges as a work begging for the neglected children of the world. This is Bay Bay's realism.

He also sold one of his

original paintings of Frederick Douglass to the Howard University School of Communications for their Sixth Annual Communications Conference held last weekend. The painting was displayed at the Frederick Douglass Luncheon. He said



Mathew 'Bay Bay' Williams

the School of Communications got a deal.

When so many contemporary artists are delving into the emptiness and apparent futility of man, it is refreshing to see the paintings of Bay Bay which offer us a direct, but deeply felt human experience.

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CULTURAL SPOTLIGHT

...concerts, profiles, reviews...

Creative Riches Unveiled in Fine Arts

**By Clifford Dority**  
Hilltop Staffwriter

The 46th Annual Howard University Student Art Extravaganza was unveiled last week to a packed house of art lovers in the gallery of the school of Fine Arts. The Art Exhibition, which brought out such honored guests as President Cheek showcased a variety of beautiful artistic works by Fine Art students of Howard University.

The students' works were professional in quality, exemplifying the tasteful richness of creativity.

The art gallery featured a diversity of techniques, such as: Water and oil paintings, casting, photography, pencil drawings and original African crafts, among others.

"You see individuality in each painting," stated Star-manda Bullock, who is the chairperson of the Art Department and Director of the Gallery. Many pain-



Etchings by Carol Parkinson (l), Arinthia Jones (above)

tings expressed romantic themes exuding the emotional and heart-touching moments in the relationships between black men and women.

In addition, the exhibition displayed some most outstanding photography and pencil drawing of human expressions. And, another highlight was the original African Arts of the fabulous James Herring Gallery. The Herring Gallery contains various exodid statues, tribal masks and drums.

The 46th Annual Art Exhibition was put on display principally by the students in the Department of Fine Arts. But there also was the help of various committees and faculty members.

Perhaps one statement made by a student in the Exhibition of African Contemporary Art newsletter said it all: "...to actually feel like you are contributing to a project as significant and as unique as this is perhaps, one of the more rewarding experiences of my life..."

The exhibit will run until March 9.



"THREE SISTERS" by Tawnika Cunningham



Another fine piece at student exhibit

Miller: 'Poetry Is My Life'

cont. from page 4

Smiles and the Land of No Smiles, which I wrote over the Atlantic coming back from the Pan-African Conference. What the poem attempted to do was show the difference between Western civilization and Africa. It dealt with the personification of history where history had snatched me away from my father. I introduced the idea of Father Africa rather than mother. I described the Western World as the land of no smiles and the poem

'ROOTS'

At sunrise  
when the stars  
are few and bright  
The horizon mixes  
with colors of auburn  
purple and blue.

I raise my arms  
and open my hands  
and touch my genealogy.

I see the pasture, green,  
O sweet African plain!  
I never knew the juju  
song only fragment sound  
of hurt and pain  
in jazz!

Yet, from one lost seed  
I grew knowing little  
of my history.

I feel my roots  
not beneath me, but  
in my memories of  
the past and my  
dreams of the future.

crepuscular dean owns

It all happened like a flash of  
lightning.  
Suddenly my mind and soul  
were suspended in a  
sphere  
that had no dimensions  
and  
I understood that where I was  
before... had been occupied

sunshine

'ENTWINED'

When our souls met,  
our minds travelled a million  
miles away from this dimension  
to the next  
I hesitated in revealing  
to you the beauty  
of your soul without reason.  
But, as time gathered itself and  
journeyed to the corners of my mind,  
I rejoiced in feeling my new  
freedom of thought and I knew that  
the beauty had to be revealed.

sunshine

Hicks' Award Adds to Drama's Fame

**By Bernard Gavin**  
Hilltop Staffwriter

The Howard University Drama Department and the Howard Players, known nationwide for excellence, have added yet another milestone to its long list of achievements. Its latest tribute is at the hands of Miss Marva Hicks, first Black winner of the regional Irene Ryan Award at the recent American College Theatre Festival.

The Irene Ryan Scholarship Award (named after the actress best remembered for her role as Granny in the long-running Beverly Hills series) was presented to Miss Hicks at an Awards Program Sunday evening. It was established to give recognition and financial assistance to outstanding student performers who wish to further pursue their education. For her victory on the regional level, Miss Hicks was awarded a \$500 scholarship and a trophy. If she wins the national competition she will win an additional \$2,000 scholarship.



Marva Hicks, winner of Irene Ryan Scholarship award

Miss Hicks was entered in the Irene Ryan competition through her involvement in the production *Tamborines to Glory* (directed by Jeffery Newman), which was participating in the festival. Miss Hicks had exactly six minutes to depict two 'obviously contrasting' scenes

with time running between scenes and a minimum of props. She rendered *Corner of the Sky*, a song from the play *Pippin* and along with Sheila Johns depicted a scene from *Tamborines*. Out of some 24 contestants Miss Hicks and Miss Johns (no less noteworthy, a senior acting major in the College of Fine Arts) were among the six finalists who performed last Thursday (17 Feb. 77) before National judges. She competes for the national award using the same material at the Kennedy Center, Sunday, February 27.

Miss Hicks, originally from Petersburg, Virginia, is a junior in the College of Fine Arts, studying acting. Last year she received two awards from the Drama Department; one for development as an actress and another for speech. She is a three year veteran of the Howard Players troupe and her stage credits include *Tamborines to Glory*, *The Niggers*, *Mushy Mouth*, and *Tales, Tales, and More Tales*.

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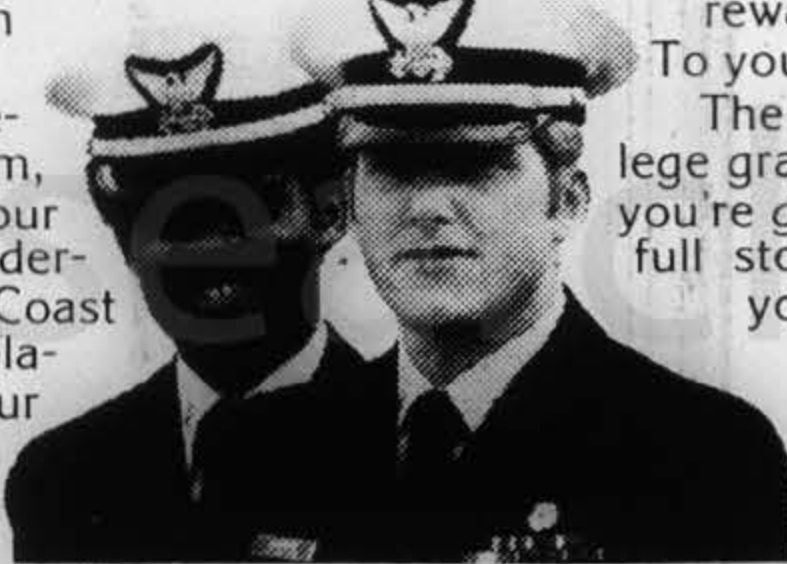
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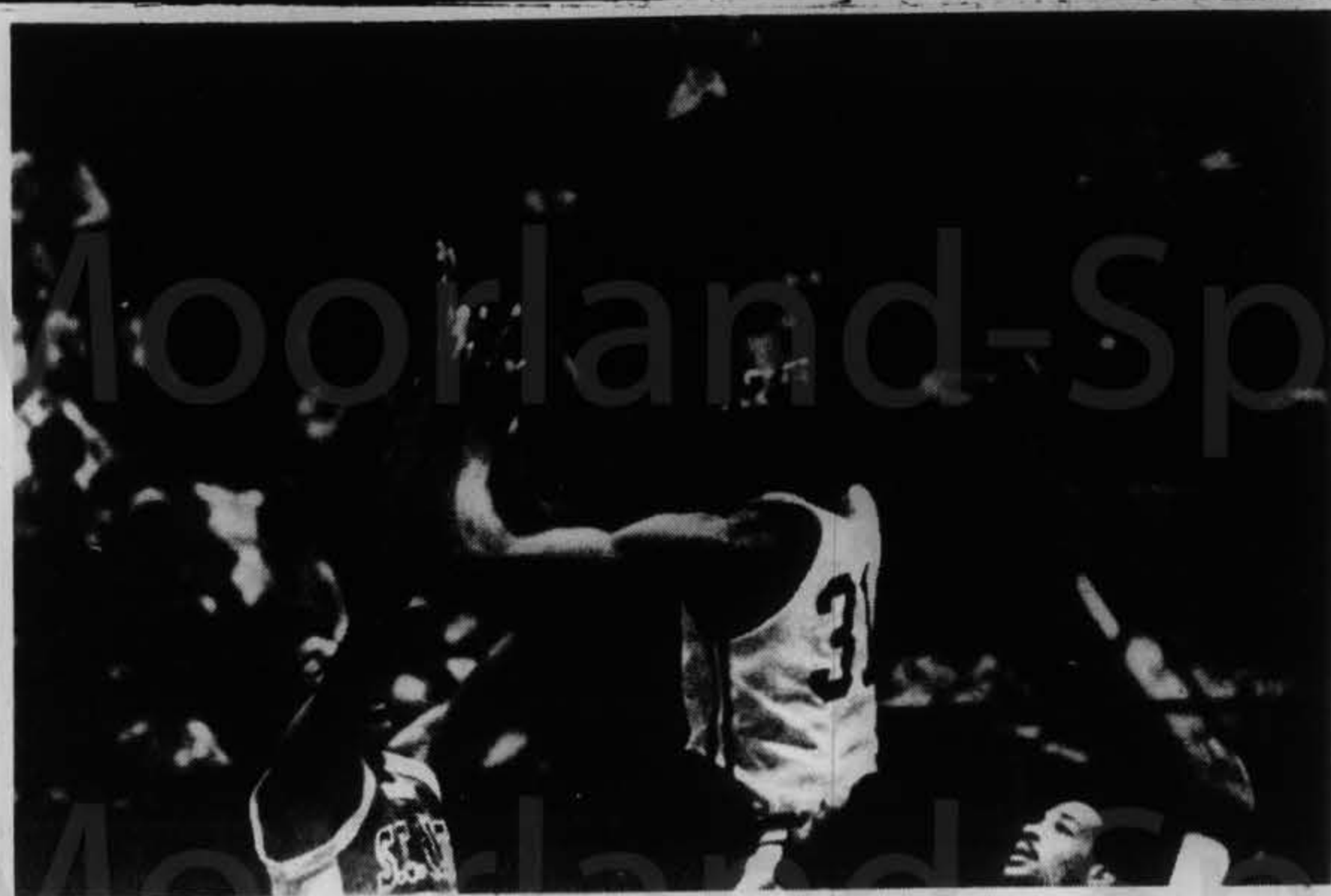


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## SPORTS



Mike Nettles (31) battles for a rebound in the Bison's win over South Carolina.



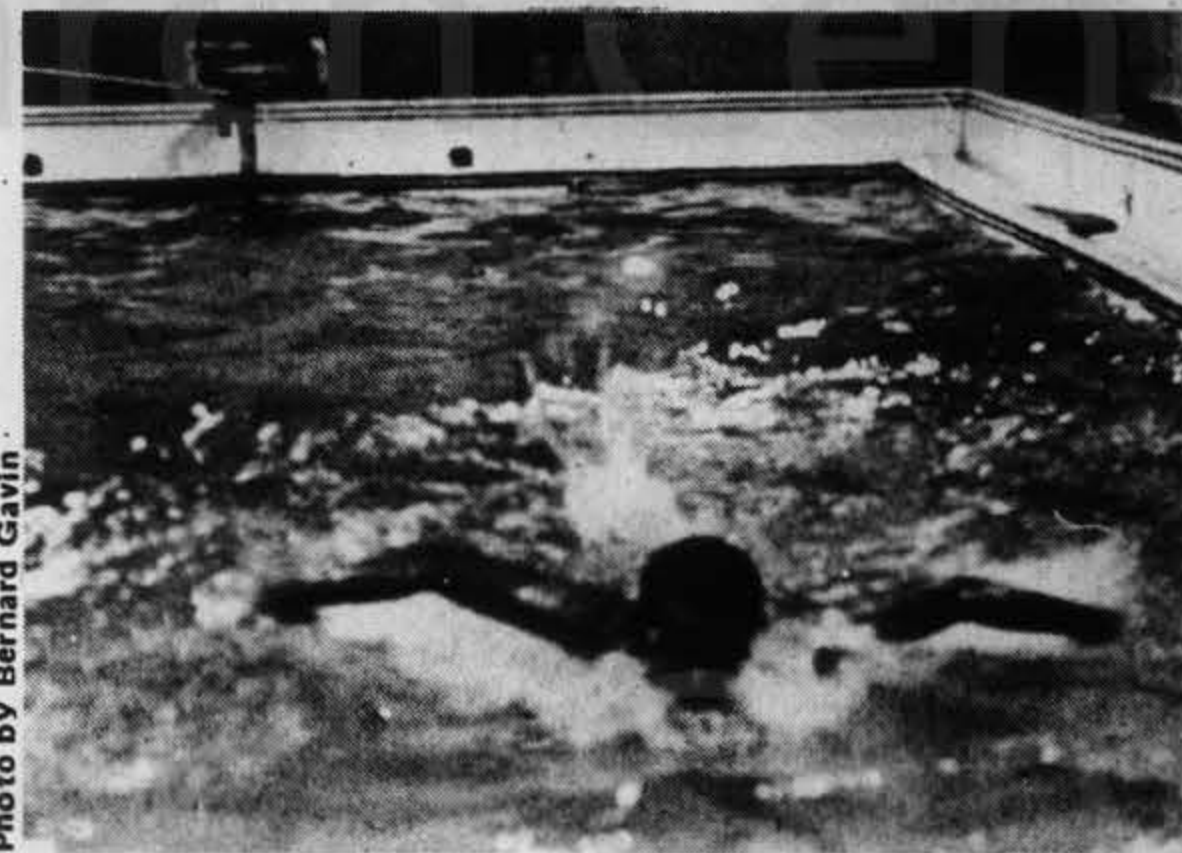
Gerald Gaskins soars for a layup. He and David Whitehead play an important role in the MEAC Tourney.

## The Final Days: Sharks Swim 3-Day Towson Meet

By Peter Harris

Howard's swimming team is in Towson today for the second day of competition in the Tri State Invitational Meet at Towson State College. The Sharks took a team of seven swimmers, spread surprisingly well over the field of events, and a realistic view about the tournament's outcome to the meet.

The meet pits Howard against major East Coast



teams including George Washington and American Universities of Washington, D.C.

The Sharks are competing in 13 of the 14 events at the tournament despite their small size. Only the 100 and 200 yard butterfly races will be without Howard representatives.

Steve Sumners will dive this weekend from the one and three meter boards, with little or no practice under his belt as a result of the waterless state of Howard's pool brought on because of unrepaired lights.

Chris Henderson is one of three Howard swimmers who is swimming in three events apiece; he competes in the 100 and 200 yard backstroke, and the 200 yard individual medley.

Jeff Bassnet is the other iron man. He is swimming the 200 yard freestyle, 400 yard freestyle medley relay, and the 500 yard freestyle.

James Washington is going after the gold in the 100 and 200 yard breaststroke races. Hee Hwang is also competing in the 200.

Adrian White is competing in the 50 and 100 yard freestyle races, while Paul Poonkong is in the 100 yard backstroke.

The swimmers carried no rose colored shades with them to Towson. Faced with limited manpower, no permanent practice facility, and schedule cuts all season, the Sharks say it's "impossible" to come away from the Towson meet with anything other than personal success.

"I'll be swimming to do the best I can," Henderson said. He's the man who described the formidable task that the seven-man team faces. "We'll win the 100 back (his race). This last said with an unmistakable bravado.

"Since we haven't been practicing we just have to be concerned with doing the best we can," Washington added sullenly. "I'll be thrilled to come back with some iron" in individual races.

Poonkong, like the consensus of the swimmers at practice Tuesday in the dingy pool area in the Women's Annex, summed up Howard's ultimate goal: "We'll be looking for good individual times."

Bison In Greensboro For MEAC Basketball Tourney  
Guard Play Key to SuccessBy Steven Jones  
Hilltop Staffwriter

It is MEAC Basketball Tournament time once again and this year the Bison will invade tobacco country with realistic hopes of bringing home the conference crown.

In their opening tournament game, yesterday, the third-seeded Bison met defending MEAC champions North Carolina A&T, a team they have beaten twice this season. The score was not available at press time.

Howard was one of the pre-tournament favorites. The question is, however, which Bison team will show up for the tournament. Will it be the erratic team that blew a 12-point lead and lost to Morgan 10 days ago, or will it be the poised team that methodically destroyed league champion South Carolina State last Friday.

Howard must play with consistency and maintain its

poise if they are to win three straight tournament games. They have been unable to win more than two consecutive games since January.

The Bison are led by 6-7 forward Gerald Glover, who has performed consistently all season. He finished third in the league in scoring (18 ppg) and second in rebounding (10 rpg).

Front-court mates Dorian Dent, John Smith, Mike Nettles, and Mike Pressley have provided plenty of scoring and rebounding support. Both Glover and Nettles have been honored as MEAC players of the week this season.

The key to the Bison success in the tournament, however, hinges on their guard play. For most of this season, Howard has been plagued by a lack of scoring and an excess of turnovers in the backcourt.

Recently, however, Gerald

"Tub" Gaskins has proven to be a capable backcourt general while David "Hollywood" Whitehead has suddenly found his outside shooting eye.

Talentwise, the Bison seem capable of winning against any team in the tournament. With their outstanding front court and improving backcourt no team in the conference can match their overall depth and ability.

But they have to play with intensity and eliminate the mental lapses that caused them to lose seven games this season by a total of 20 points.

Still, several other teams seem capable of winning the tournament. The fourth-seeded Morgan Bears have the best 1-2 punch in the conference. League scoring and rebounding leader Eric (the Pencil) Evans and guard Maurice Jennings combined to average 42 points per game.

The high-scoring threesome of Robert McClellan (16.8), Floyd Monroe (13.6), and Stanley Melvin (13.4) led the second-seeded N.C. Central into the tournament.

Regular season champion South Carolina State are led by deadeye guard Harry Nickens (16.2) and 6-6 forward Willie Brown (12.5). The Bulldogs are aptly one of the league's most tenacious defensive teams.

St. John's may have quelled the Bison's momentum Monday night by blizzing them 92-69. Against conference competition, however, they have won five of their last seven games, with the two losses coming by a total of three points.

As long as the backcourt limits its mistakes and does not negate the advantage the Bison frontcourt has over other league teams, Howard should have its first MEAC basketball championship.



Third leading MEAC scorer Gerald Glover slams one home.

Grapplers Finish Fifth In MEAC  
Esaw and Royal Are Bright SpotsBy Muriel Hairston  
Hilltop Staffwriter

Howard's wrestlers "met their matches" at the MEAC Tournament, held in Greensboro, North Carolina last weekend and finished with James Esaw in a second place 167 pound berth, Robert Royal fourth in 142, and the team in fifth overall.

A whole year of hardships, strenuous practices, and many injuries were demolished in a matter of hours.

The problems started occurring back to back early. Two minutes before he was to wrestle, Kelvin Kittrell (126) was informed he had to shave his mustache. Kittrell made a mad dash to find a razor.

After finding one and removing the hair, Kittrell ran out to the mat to meet his opponent from A&T.

The match started off well. Kittrell, however, had to contend with his freshly-shaved face being rubbed on the mat by his opponent.

By the end of the match, the score was North Carolina A&T 6, Howard 3, and Kittrell was limping away with an air of mental disappointment and physical pain.

Hershall Tolbert, seeded first, then put aside his teammates' loss and strode confidently to wrestle his opponent from Morgan.

By the second period of the match, Tolbert had his opponent in a wheelbarrel position. He then preceded to "walk" him across the mat. For his third feat, Tolbert threw his opponent on the mat.

The match then turned into a pattern of moves and escapes. However, Tolbert was not fortunate in his last move: he was pinned a few seconds before the buzzer went off.

was out for blood or bones - whichever came first. Howard was not left out of this brutal campaign.

Bison Joe Dean (158) lost on a default when a move by Steve Gary, from A&T, caused a pinched nerve. "I had him scared," said a sling-armed Dean later. "When he (Gary) shot the take-down, I felt the pain in my arm."

Marshall Woods changed the pattern for Howard by beating his South Carolina State competitor 9-8 on riding time.

In the semi-finals, Howard wrestler Robert Royal (142) went out on the mat with enough determination for all

the wrestlers participating in the MEAC A&T wrestling fans struck a thunderous roar of disapproval as Royal was wrestling. However, their disapproval turned into applause as Royal lost on a default and was temporarily disqualified.

Howard's James Esaw (167) picked up the pace by beating his opponent from South Carolina State 12-2.

Howard left the Friday round of the MEAC defeated and seemingly without hope. Howard coach Michael Jackson thought that most of his team had disqualified.

Upon arrival at

A&T's gym, on Saturday, however, Howard was informed that not only could the previously defeated Royal wrestle, but the rest of the team as well. Unknown to Jackson, the rules of the MEAC were changed this year. Wrestlers had to lose twice before disqualifying for the finals.

Royal was elated enough to pin his opponent from Maryland Eastern Shore. From a headlocked position, he turned his opponent to his back and pinned him flat.

In his second consolation match, Royal lost to his Morgan opponent 14-7.

## Advice For Future: 'Recruit'

By Muriel Hairston  
Hilltop Staffwriter

"There's always next year" a great unknown philosopher once said. His great words have trickled down to Howard's wrestling team. However, whether or not next year will be successful is a question that can't be answered now, according to team members.

In an earlier interview, Leo Miles, director of the athletic department, stated the wrestling program will continue next year.

The feelings of the wrestlers who participated in the MEAC last weekend, however, don't seem to think so. The wrestlers and coach Michael Jackson have reservations, as well as suggestions for next year's program.

Graduating assistant coach Jackson suggests that new recruitment and a fulltime coach are important for success next year. "We need a full team," he emphasized.

Howard has lost a number

of matches this season on forfeits, because of lack of wrestlers in certain weight classes. Jackson stressed that the new coach must be knowledgeable in wrestling "and not just a fill-in person."

Wrestler Hershall Tolbert said after the MEAC Tourney that he "can't formulate any (predictions) right now" about next year because there are still unanswered questions. "A lot depends on who will be coaching and new recruits," explained Tolbert.

"Next year will be a rebuilding process for the team and whoever is coaching," he remarked. "It will be just like freshman year."

Determination will be the key that could unlock the door next year for 158 pound Joe Dean. "I plan to win next year," he declared. "However, we should have a good coach. If we do not have a good coach, then the team on the whole will not be good."

James Esaw, who placed second in his weight class (167) in the MEAC would not comment fully on next year. He did say "a lot of (wrestling) will depend on the program offered by the athletic department."

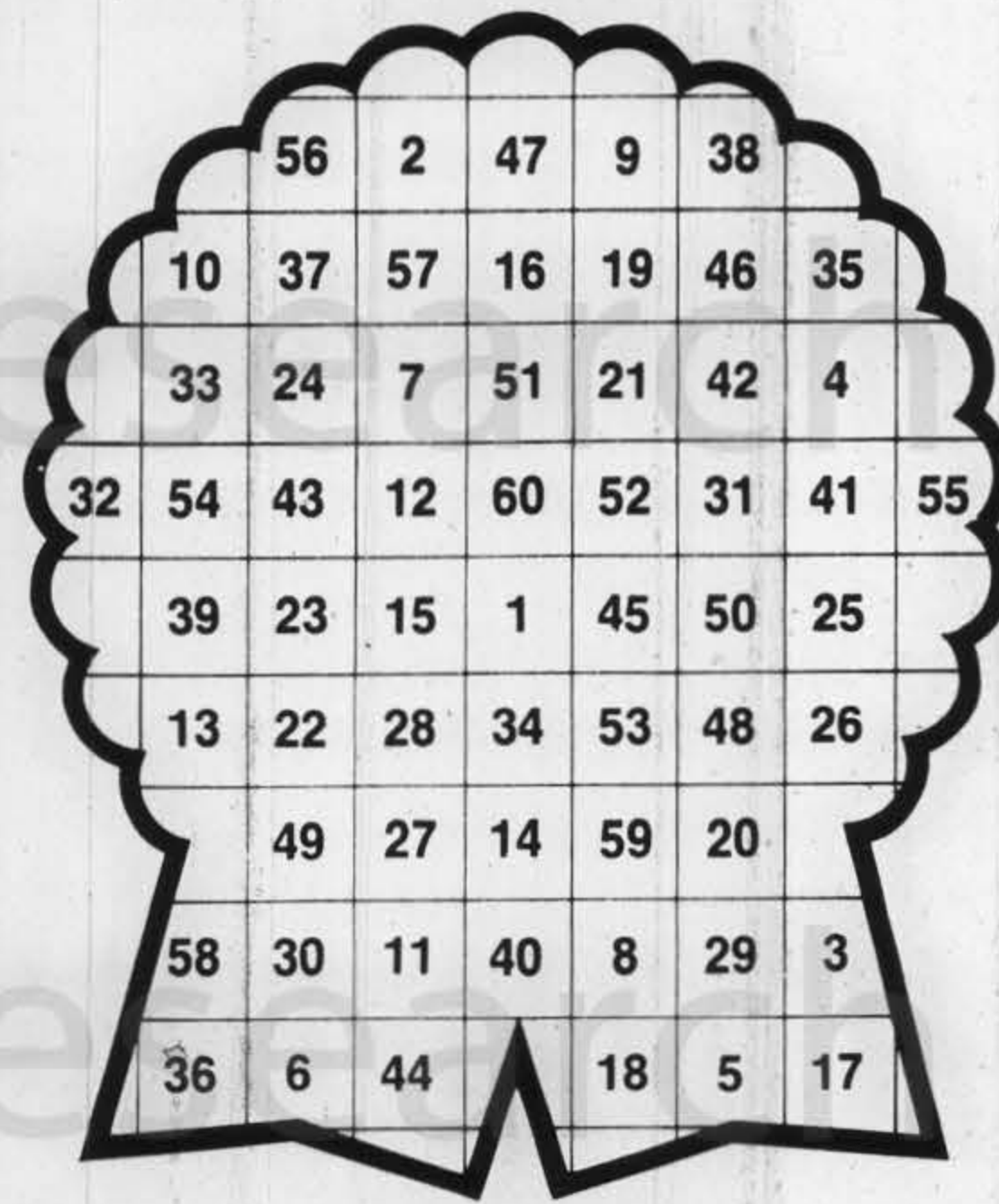
Making up for Marshall Woods, who would not offer predictions, was Robert Royal, who took fourth place in the 142 weight class.

Speaking from a personal angle Royal said he "will be better next year for the MEAC." As far as the team goes, Royal hopes for "a better togetherness and a right state of mind." Royal suggested recruitment in "heavy-weight" would be a valuable asset to the team.

In terms of a coach, Royal believes the coach "should be someone equal" to the wrestlers. Such a coach, he said, should be someone "who can relate to, someone we can look to for guidance. If we get that," concluded Royal, "We can take it from there."

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## SPORTS

## Bisonettes Miss MEAC Spot; Travel to American U.

By Peter Harris

The Bisonettes basketball team, missing out on a trip to the MEAC Tournament, takes a quick trip over to American University tonight (7:00 p.m.) for a game with the Eagles.

Howard is coming off a 54-50 squeaker over Bowie State at Burr last Friday. The win raised its record to 11-8. Jackie Taylor, Howard's spright point guard, popped in 14 points, supporting a game-high 20 by forward Winsome Davidson.

Taylor slightly injured her ankle last Saturday in a pickup basketball game, but says that "it's nothing." "It

should be better Friday," she said Tuesday, her left ankle in the whirlpool.

The Bisonettes were in line to play in the first official MEAC Women's Championship this weekend in Greensboro, but suffered a setback after a meeting between MEAC officials. Morgan was chosen to compete against South Carolina State.

The meeting was called at the urging of Howard head coach Sylvia Grooms and Athletic Director Leo Miles because of a controversy surrounding the academic status of a Morgan player.

The player, Karen Marshall, was declared ineligible



Carmen Bryant (11) gets advice in recent Howard-Bowie game.

by Morgan after the registrar issued a confirmation letter, 30 days after school started in the second semester, Grooms says.

By that time, on January 15, Morgan had defeated Howard 67-64 behind a 20-point performance by Marshall.

Miles, in an informal statement to Howard's women's team on Tuesday, said that he "researched the ruling" on ineligibility in the AIAW handbook. As far as he could find out, Miles said, a player is only ineligible, in the AIAW's eyes, "whenever a school says you're ineligible."

Grooms was incensed. With no national guidelines on eligibility, something she says the AIAW is supposed to establish, "the school that follows the rules" suffers when it plays the school that "breaks the rules."

The MEAC women's championship game pits the Northern Division representative against the Southern Division's The

other two Northern Division schools are Maryland Eastern Shore and Delaware State. The Bisonettes finished 4-2 in their Division, defeating State and Morgan once and UMES twice.

If Howard was selected, Grooms would have cancelled tonight's and a March first game against Gallaudet.

"Now we'll just finish up our last two regular season games and go into the Catholic (University) Invitational on March fourth," Grooms said regretfully.

The private tournament is being held because of the apparent demise of the Metropolitan Intercollegiate Sports Association for Women (MISAW), which has held a post season basketball tournament for the last four years.

"The MISAW, for all intents and purposes, no longer exists," Grooms said.

"We (area colleges women's teams' coaches) are in the process of revamping. Whether or not it comes back remains to be seen."

## 47.0 By Massey Clinches Title

## Kingpin Mile Relay Best In Nation

Photos by Darnell Dunson



Michael Archie (t.l.), Gosnell White (t.r.),

(b.r.) brought home this first place



Reggie Sojourner (b.l.) and Richard Massey

trophy. Their mile time was 3:12.5.



By Joseph Saxon

Hilltop Staffwriter

Howard University's track team goes into tonight's AAU Games, at Madison Square Garden, as the kingpins of the mile relay after running this year's fastest indoor time of 3:12.5, last Sunday at Delaware.

That effort by Gosnell White, Reggie Sojourner, Michael Archie, and Richard Massey eclipsed an earlier record-tying performance of 3:13.9 set on the same 220 yard oval track at Delaware, February 13. Their achievement highlighted a sixth place finish by both the mile relay 'B' team, and Ernie Waiters in the 60-yard dash.

Gosnell White, lead-off runner for the mile relay said, "We were having a lot of tough breaks earlier that made me want to run better. I geared myself to run a good race last week, and

now I feel we can run with anybody in the country."

"I'm not overconfident, because we have not run as well as we can. But I am looking forward to bigger and better things. I enjoy being a record holder, however I don't run for records. I run to win, and if the records, fall, they fall."

The mile relay was billed as a showdown between Howard and Villanova, this year's fastest teams. However, Villanova withdrew, leaving Howard to battle with a good Delaware State for top honors. From start to finish it was no contest.

Second leg Sojourner said of the race, "Rusty (White) got out and ran away from the field. He gave me four steps and I protected the lead, and gave it to Archie. Even though Archie was feeling fatigued because of a cold, he managed to increase the lead, and give it to Massey. Once Massey got the baton, there was no

such thing as catching him."

For the past month, none have been able to keep pace with Massey. While his teammates were all running 48.5, he was turning out a "thoroughbred special": a 47 flat clocking. His quarter times this year are 47, 48.2, 49.4, 47.9, and 47. Although he ran this year's fourth fastest,

time, he displays no cockiness. Instead he, speaks as one who knows his capabilities:

"I attribute my good races to a positive attitude," the junior from New York City said. "This week I'll relax more than normal, and try to keep everybody in the right frame of mind. We can win our race tonight if we keep the proper attitude, and remain consistent."

Tonight, Howard will run the mile relay, and an abbreviated sprint medley. Their main competition will

be the DC Striders Track Club. Billy Hicks, Dennis Walker, Stan Vinson, and Fred Sowerby form the best club mile relay in the nation today, and they have also run 3:12 this year.

Archie thinks the key to winning tonight will be for the Bison to run a sound race, and staying out in front. "Last time we were in New York we ran a 3:18.5. We'll do better than that tonight. I like running on a banked surface."

The Bison are the nation's best, and according to Sojourner people will be making demands on them. "It feels funny being on top. Now that we are there, people will expect certain things from us. We're at that point where people will want us to run every meet. We don't know what will happen from now on, but it's going to be fun."

## Bison Spring Baseball

## Preparing For 'Toughest' Schedule

By Calvin Smith  
Hilltop Staffwriter

Coming off a poor fall season, head baseball coach Chuck Hinton, began his traditional spring practice in early January. Players have been preparing for what coach Hinton believes "is the toughest schedule along the East Coast."

"We have come a long way since the fall season," commented coach Hinton, while attempting to do exercises at a recent workout. "We hope additional players who have joined the team, will definitely contribute towards a successful season."

For three years the baseball team has been unable to receive a bid to the NCAA Division I playoffs. In order to qualify for the playoffs, a team has to win 75 percent of its games against other Division I schools.

Penn State has prevented Howard from attending the post season tournament, and Hinton believes all that is going to change this year.

"We have been trying to play against Penn State for years, but had no response from them," he explained. "However, it has been suggested by the NCAA that

we play another team."

The Bison open their season against the Tigers of Clemson next Friday. After a brief stay in South Carolina, the Bison will continue on to Atlanta and play a double header against Morehouse College. From Atlanta Howard, eases down the road to Miami, Florida.

St. Joseph College of Philadelphia, Dayton and Florida International will tri- host a six-day tournament. The team then travels to Jacksonville to end the spring road trip.

A big plus in the Bison schedule is the location of the team's homegames. In the past, Howard has been playing their homegames at the west elipse. This season they will play all their home games at Banneker, located across from Howard's campus. Up to three years ago Howard had played their home games at Banneker.

"It's super," said Hinton. "Playing across the street from campus makes it easier for students and the community to attend our games." Howard will host Penn State, Temple, Seton Hall, University of Delaware, American University, and Rhode Island College.

Due to inexperience the Bison did not fare well last fall. The team finished with a

5-15 record. To aid in this season's turn around will be Mike Banks, who last year batted a solid .375. The senior Bison quarterback will add strength in the infield at first base, and power on the offense.

Last season's third best base stealer, Kenny Warren, will chase fly-balls instead of spirals, while tiptoeing in centerfield.

Second baseman, Burt Herron, looks to improve a disappointing fall. Herron leads the Bison in stolen bases and was ranked third nationally for the most stolen bases in a season two years ago.

Rookie Norman Howard will play third base. Howard had a humiliating fall. He had to be played out of position, which caused his slow start.

Curtis Crutchfield and Vince Bailey will round off the outfield. Crutchfield has speed and fast hands and must be considered a threat once he reaches first. Bailey is coming off a superb 1976 spring. As a freshman he lead the team in hits, homers, and hit .345.

Ron Sledge will be on the receiving end of the battery. As a walk-on, Sledge was a terror and yanked respect from all the pitchers he faced. The 5'10" sophomore

has power in his swing and the force of a magnum for an arm. He batted .450 this fall.

An all veteran pitching staff will man the pitching end of the battery. Ace junior, left hander Gene Fleet returns after a 3-2 fall season record. James Garvin, Greg Scarborough, Vaughn Dashiell and Brian Nichols round off the pitching staff.

"Everybody knows what needs to be done," said Hinton. "Last year's freshman have had their baptism and it's time now for us to get a championship."

## Athletic Heritage

Due to space limitations Steven Jones' series will not run this week. He will continue with the 1960s next week.

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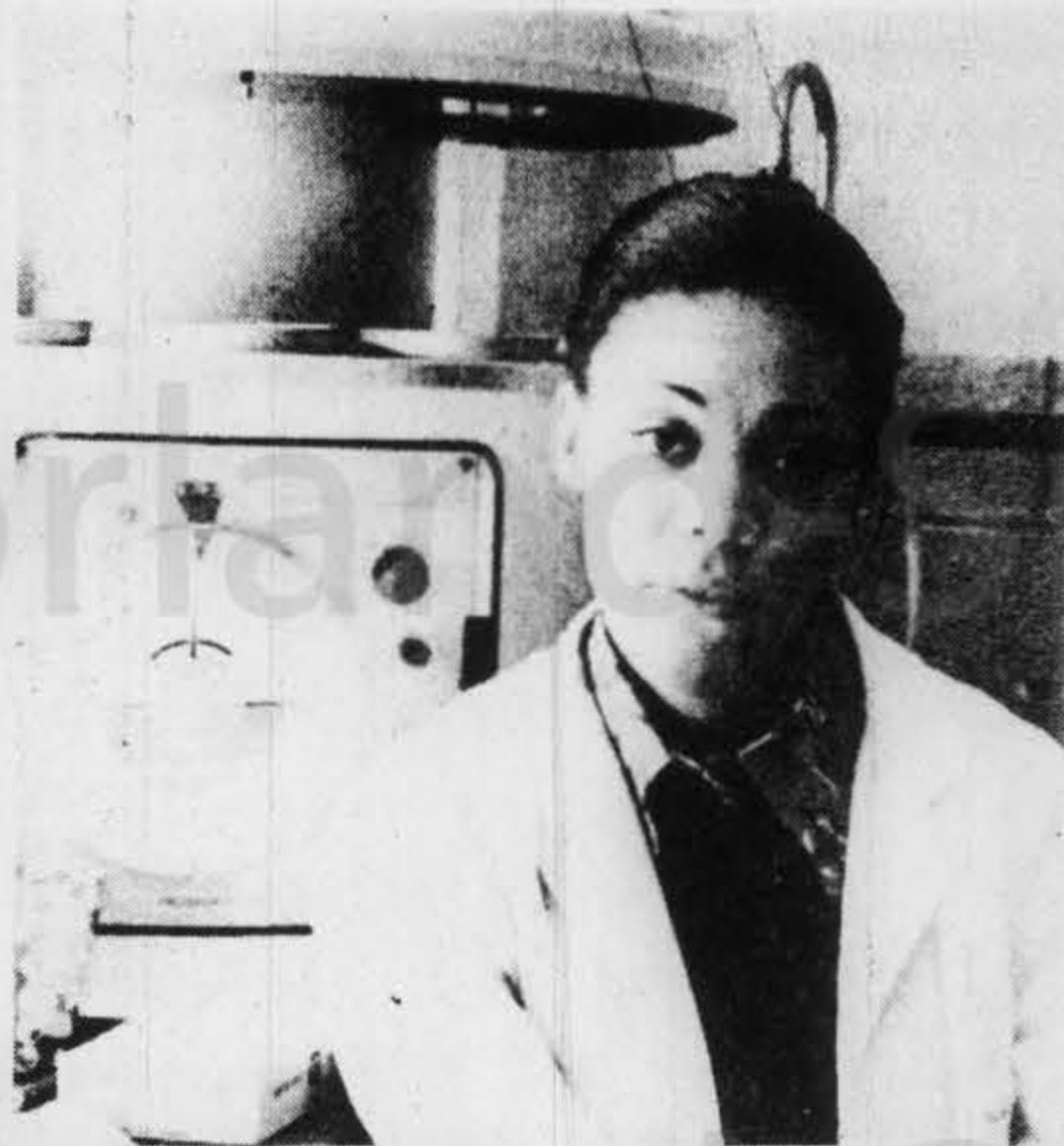


# CAMPUS SPEAKOUT

**Margo A. Smith, Zoology (Premed), Senior, Aries**

1. Yes I do, having a science major makes it almost impossible to get around particularly difficult courses because they are required for your major or by the professional schools, so it is definitely on the individual to perform to the best of his ability.

2. Very little, because the history of Black people is an essential part of (White) American History and should be emphasized all year long and not just one month.



**Princess Hemingway Psychology, Freshman Capricorn**

1. No, because I'm taking irrelevant courses that have nothing to do with my major (except Foreign Language requirement and P.E. requirement). Of course this is my first year at Howard and the courses are supposedly basic studies for pursuing my profession.

2. What events of Black History month? Alex Haley's visit meant a lot because he wrote "Roots" and he spoke out for Blacks concerning it, but Black History month wasn't advertised or publicized enough and the student body was not aware of the events.



**Kevin D. Willis, English, Senior, Taurus**

1. Yes I do feel I am being adequately prepared. I feel that one must educate himself, and in view of this, certainly the opportunities exist at Howard. But, again, we must motivate ourselves.

2. The events of Black History month have been both reinforcing and enlightening. It makes me realize that as one of the fortunate who have had the economic capabilities to attend college, I owe it to the less fortunate, and to those that have gone before me to succeed.

**QUESTION 1:**  
Do you feel you are being adequately prepared to pursue your profession upon graduation?

**QUESTION 2:**  
What have the events of Black History Month meant to you?



**Michael F. Battle, Zoology, Freshman, Virgo**

1. Yes I feel I'm being adequately prepared to pursue my profession upon graduation, because I study what the teacher expects me to, and what I feel will be helpful to myself. Students should not depend upon the teacher to learn everything.

2. Black History month has meant very little to me, because there was very little going on throughout the month. Howard University failed to recognize the many great black leaders, failed to recognize the great black leader who graduated from this university. The few activities the university did sponsor, the HU students did not adequately attend. The thing that hurts me is that Howard being the number one Black university in the world, failed to set an example for the other Black colleges.

**PHOTOGRAPHY BY: WILLIAM BENJAMIN III**



**Chris Bloom, Zoology, Sophomore, Libra**

1. Yes, I feel I'm being prepared for my future here both academically and socially. Education required total knowledge. As a prospective Black physical Howard challenges me with the required curriculum for medical school, plus offers me a diversity of Black peers to relate to so that one day I can intelligently understand the community I'll serve.

2. From South Africa's continuing struggle to Alex Haley's inspiring novel "Roots" the events of Black History month show me that there's only one race - the human race. The mis-education of white people, the apoplexy of black people, and just the total rivalry of differences in people underline serious obstacles for Blacks. However, through Martin Luther's dreams and Malcolm X' goals I feel Black history month also shows Blacks hope for social maturity and economic prosperity.

## Hilltop Happenings

### Elections Committee

The Next meeting of the Election's Committee will be held Friday, February 25, 1977.

All Elections Committee members are reminded that their attendance is imperative.

Anyone wishing to be on the Elections Committee should attend this meeting Friday, at 7 pm in the conference room of the Office of Student Life. By prompt or don't come.

### Plant Sale

The Alpha Angels are sponsoring a plant sale.  
Time: February 25, 1977  
Place: Douglass Hall

### Detroiters!

We're gonna have a party this Saturday - and we're getting together rides home for the break.

If you're from the City or from the State, be at the meeting Friday, Feb 25 - 6-7 pm, Cook Hall Lounge (Be on time!).

### AL Jarreau Spotlight

On Wednesday March 2, 1977, WHBC will present "AN EVENING WITH AL JARREAU" from 8:00 until 8:30.

### Free Mini-Courses

The Study Skills Component of the Center for Academic Reinforcement is offering free, five-week mini-courses on various aspects of study improvement from March 21 - April 22, 1977. Courses to be offered are as follows:

STUDY POWER  
TERM PAPER: STEP BY STEP  
FORMAL RESEARCH WRITING  
READING FOR COLLEGE COURSES  
HOW TO BEAT COLLEGE TESTS

MEETING THE TEST  
STUDYING IN THE SCIENCES  
Registration will be held in Room 102, Academic Support Building B, from March 1 - 18. For more information, contact Yolanda Blackman or Karen Fisher at 636-7634 or 636-7635.

### Rho Chi Banquet

Professor David Abner, III, chairman of the university faculty at Howard University will be the guest speaker at the Annual Initiation and Banquet Ceremony of Rho Chi on February 26, at 7:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 730 Monroe St. N.E.

Rho Chi, the national pharmacy honor society, will induct 10 students, 1 alumni, and 3 faculty members into the organization.

### Workshops for N.E. Women

Workshops for women will take place Saturday, February 26 from 9:00 AM to 3:45 PM at Roper Junior High School, 48th & Meade Sts. N.E.

Keynote speakers are Wilhelmina J. Rolark, Councilmember, Ward 8 and Anne Turpeau, Chairperson, D.C. Commission on the Status of Women.

Workshops discuss: Starting Your Own Business, Leasing, Buying, Selling Homes, Automobile Financing, The Law and Daily Living, Help for Battered Wives, Physical Health and Female Awareness, Relating to Aging Parents and Grandparents. Men are welcome.

For information, call Shirley Munford or Lillian Green 727-2648 or 727-2423.

### Mashinini To Speak

Hear Tsietzi Mashinini speak on the "Fight for Freedom in Southern Africa" at the School of Social Work auditorium at noon on Mon., February 28.

Mashinini, 19, was a central leader of the Soweto high school rebellion against the forced learning of Afrikaans which began last June 16 and has continued since.

### Meeting

The regular meeting of the Faculty-Staff Christian Fellowship will be held on Wednesday at 12:00 Noon in the lower auditorium of Rankin Chapel (Thurman Lounge).

The Fellowship will continue to address itself to the question of ethics in scientific research.

### Center For Academic Reinforcement Verbal Courses

Howard University students and staff can register now for one or more of the following non-credit, free mini-courses which will be in session from March 14 - April 22, 1977:

Sentence Structure  
Spelling and diction  
Vocabulary Building  
Paragraph Development  
Reading Comprehension  
History of American English  
Basic English (for Foreign and Native Students)

For registration information, please contact CAR-Verbal Academic Support Building B, Room 110 636-7634/7627

### Tae Kwon Do Cabaret

The Gentle East Black Belt Club of Howard University presents a fund raising cabaret, Saturday, February 26, 1977 from 10 until 2. The cabaret will feature the Joe Manley Express.

This event will be held at the Nativity Church, 6000 Georgia Avenue, N.W.

For info, call 797-1800. Free set-ups. B.Y.O.B.

### C.A.R.P. Presents

The Collegiate Associate for the Research of Principles presents a critique and counter-proposal to the Communist view of man. William Gertz, of the Freedom Leadership Foundation, will present a new alternative to affirming inherent human rights and dignity.

Date: March 3, 1977  
Place: Cook Hall Lounge  
Time: 2:00 p.m.

### Coffee House

Looking for something new and different? Come, relax and be part of a friendly atmosphere with live entertainment and refreshments. Time and Location: Saturday Feb. 26, 8 p.m. until 2417 First St. N.W. Sponsored by the Howard University Christian Fellowship-Igbimo Otito.

### Feel Like Doing Something Positive (?)

The H.U.S.A. Office of Community Affairs is now seeking volunteers to assist in planning a Community Health Care Fair and Conference entitled "Helping Others To Help Themselves."

For more information contact: Office of Student Life, Office of Community Affairs Room 280, Phone 636-6914, 15

### Ivy Club Dance

The Ivy Leaf Pledge Club of Alpha Chapter Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated Presents "The First Of Things To Come" A Dance at the "Kappa Kastle" 1708 "S" Street N.W.

Fashionable Attire  
Refreshments will be served  
Please Attend  
Friday February 25, 1977  
From 10:00 p.m. until

### "A Party For Just Us (HU Students)"

A Piscean affair, sponsored by the brothers of Cook Hall, February 25, 1977. Howard University I.D. ONLY. Door Prizes for Pisces with valid birthday identification.

### Chess

The Office of Student Life will be running a chess clinic again starting on Thursday March 3, and running every Thursday evening from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. If you learn to play chess or how to play better, you may come and learn.

Also a Howard University chess club is being formed and players can come on Thursday nights and just play chess. The clinic and meetings are held in rm 114 of the Office of Student Life.

Any questions contact Robert Davison 636-0330

### Meridian Fashion Show

Anyone wishing to participate in a fashion show sponsored by the Meridian Hill Student Council please contact Dezaree Pines at 797-815. Must Model own fashions and/or designs. Thank You.

### Bible Study

What is the Bible? What does it say and how does it affect you? These and other questions can be answered. Come and participate in the weekly Dorm Bible Study sponsored by the Howard University Christian Fellowship-Igbimo Otito.

Time and Location: Tue. Mar. 1 from 8 p.m. - until in the Lounge area of Slove Hall.

### Blue & White Disco

The Pistol Club of the National Society of Pershing Rifles Fraternity and the Crescent Club of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity invites you to a

BLUE & WHITE DISCO  
Where: All Souls Church  
16th & Harvard Streets, NW  
Date: February 26, 1977  
Time: 10:00 - 2:00

Don't Meet Us There!  
Beat Us There!

Rides Will Be Provided  
For Ladies!

### Awards Dinner Dance

Howard University Chapter of the National Association of Black Student Workers presents an Awards Dinner-Dance on March 3, 1977 at the Masonic Temple Ballroom on 1000 U Street, N.W. There will be cover charge. Program/Dinner begins at 8:00 p.m. and the dance is from 10:2 p.m. For further information, contact Paula Sherman at 291-2422 or 636-0114.

### Caribbean Trip

SBPA Trip to San Juan, Puerto Rico and St. Thomas, Virgin Island May 16-23 \$376

All Interested Students please attend meeting Wednesday, March 2, 1977 Room 111 School of Business and Public Administration 5:00 p.m.

### International Students

ATTENTION: Africans, Asians, Caribbean and other International students. There will be an International Student Assoc. Meeting Feb. 28, 1977 in Room B 14 Douglas Hall at 1:00 p.m.

Discussion of important matters.

### Microbiology Majors

All interested undergraduate botany and microbiology majors, there will be a meeting of the newly formed Botany/Microbiology Society on Friday, April 1.

All interested students please contact Mark Clanton at 636-0394.

### Student Govt Offices

Anyone wishing to run for the Office of HUSA President, HUSA Vice-President, Graduate Trustee, Undergraduate Trustee, Petitions available. Should attend a meeting in 2215 Fourth St., NW, The BISON Office, 4 p.m. Sharp, March 1, 1977. Petitions and guidelines for "Election" will be given out.

### Transcendental Meditation

All transcendental meditators are encouraged to attend the TMC (transcendental meditation club) meeting Tuesday night at 7:30 in Douglass Hall, room 116. Activities for the fall year will be discussed. Please come out and share the wave of love with us. For more information call Glenn Lane between 3 and 11 p.m. at 745-1551.

### LASC Elections Committee

All persons interested in serving on the Liberal Arts Student Council Elections Committee please contact Robert L. Turman, Sheryl Sears, or Frances McGee in the LASC office. The address is 289 or 282 Cook Hall, Office of Student Life, or call 636-7009, 7010.

### Lost And Found

Lost, Exxon Credit Card. If found, please call Melanie at 636-0452. Reward will be offered.

### Labelle Cancelled

We deeply regret that the February 19, 1977 LaBelle concert had to be cancelled due to the unexpected liquidation of the LaBelle ensemble, this concert would of course be an impossibility. Please be assured however, that we are in the process of filling other dates with other artists of equal magnatism.

### Car Wash

The 1977 Scroller club of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. will have a CAR WASH and TUNE UP tomorrow, weather permitting. The car wash will be held in the fine arts parking lot beginning at 9:00.

### Scroller Club Auction

Ladies.....Ladies.....Ladies..... The chance you've been waiting for has arrived. There will be an auction of the Scroller club next Thursday, March 3. To find out more about purchasing one of these fine Scrollers, keep your eyes and ears open.

### Writing Workshop

The Department of English is offering this semester, a non-credit Workshop in Expository Writing.

The course is open to undergraduates above the freshman level and to graduate and professional students who would like to improve their language and composition skills.

Classes are scheduled at the following hours:

Monday - 3:10-4:30 (ACP-236)  
Tuesday - 11:10-12:00 (DGH-0032)  
Wednesday - 1:10-2:00 (BUR-2020)  
Thursday - 2:10-3:00 (BUR-2013)  
Friday - 3:10-4:30 (ACP-236)  
Saturday - 11:10-12:00 (DGH-0032)

Interested students should see Dr. Charles Walker Thomas in Room 218, Locke Hall (636-7753) on Mondays, Tuesdays, or Wednesdays between 2:00-3:00 P.M.

Or see Ms. Sylvia Shanks in Room 223, Locke Hall (636-7748 or 7753) on Wednesdays or Fridays between 9:30-10:30 A.M.

### CLASSIFIEDS

Need Architectural design, drawing, or graphic work done. Reasonable rates done through Architectural Student Assembly. Contact the ASA officers at 636-7420. Business cards and stationery design also.

### Tax Program

H.U.'s chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants are having a Free Tax Program, every Saturday "Until your tax is due" April 15, located in the School of Business, Rm. 105; between the hours of 10-2. That's every Saturday FREE

### Mr. Howard Contest

All men interested in running for Mr. Howard University 1977-78, please come by the Office of Student Life and pick up an application. Ask for Ms. Roxanne Scott or Mr. Kenneth Anderson. Deadline is soon, so hurry if you are interested.

### Communications Students

The National Black Communications Society will meet Wednesday March 2 at the Bethune Lobby Lounge at 7:30. All interested persons in Communications please try to attend. We especially offer an invitation to underclassmen.

There is a sign-up list with pertinent information outside the Student Council office in Freeman's Annex Building for interested persons.

### Urgent Michigan Meeting

There will be an urgent meeting for all persons from Michigan at Cook Hall Drom on Friday February 25 at 6 p.m. Please be present. We will be having a social gathering this week end. We need to know each other.



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Vol. 1, Number 4



**FESTAC Special**



# EXTENSIONS

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## Toward A Better Understanding

By Sauda (Phyllis Jean)  
Extensions Editor

There is a certain degree of excitement about this year's observation of Black History Month which had been missing from previous ones.

For many of us, the past Black History Months have at times been a repetitious order of recalling the contributions of selected, although worthy members of the Black race such as Harriet Tubman, Fredrick Douglass, George Washington Carver, Booker T. Washington and others.

There has been a tendency on our part, to acknowledge past events and persons, and thus we have not placed enough attention on present happenings which also have a great impact on our lives and the Black race.

It is undoubtedly all well and good that we are constantly aware of our heritage, our past leaders and our contributions to America as a race. However, it is not mandatory that we recognize only those of the past for we should be aware that at the present History is being made which we should be conscious of.

We have been privileged in this year to have witnessed such provocative events as the televised adaption of Alex Haley's book ROOTS, which documented the life of a Black family from the shores of the mother country, Africa, through bondage and the struggle for freedom in America.

The televising of ROOTS is something that we must not take lightly and although many of us have had some criticism, we should be able to select the positive images projected by the program and attempt to destroy the negative.

We should understand that the White media tend to recognize and give coverage to only those events which will afford them some form of profit, or either reinforce or perpetuate their ideals.

Being conscious of such, we then should be able to supply our own answers to the question of why ABC decided to neglect the indepth and detailed account of the life of Kunta Kinte as a child in Africa, as it was told in the book.

Consequently we should then not be amazed that the recent Second Festival of Black and African Culture (FESTAC) held in Lagos, Nigeria from January 15th to February 12 of this year received virtually no coverage by the U.S. media.

Past observations will conclude that even with the so called sophisticated and liberal minded White Americans of the day, White America still has problems projecting a realistic image of Africa and African peoples of the world. One contends that apparently some unrevealed feeling of guilt has caused Whites to block out Africa as being a civilized land.

If time would allow a detailed study, it may be discovered that whites have psychologically blocked out any possibility that Africa was ever a civilized and developed land according to Western or European standards. Such a distorted and unreal image of Africa would thus provide some justifications as to why Europeans captured and enslaved Africans from their land; a land which was considered backward and pagan although it has enjoyed a rich history of universities and socially and culturally developed systems when Europe was still in the Dark Ages.

In any case we find that most Whites still cannot deal with projecting Africa in a positive vein; it would be an admittance of guilt. Thus we understand why the White media will not attempt to give sophisticated coverage of Africa.

*continued on page 3*

Published by The Hilltop  
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Magazine Editor  
Sauda (Phyllis Jean)

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Copy Editor.....Sam Ifeagwu  
Advertising Editor.....Chuck Banks  
Photo Editor.....Gordon Barnaby

Extensions welcomes letters to the Editor. We would like to know your opinion and suggestions. All letters should be addressed to: Extensions, The Hilltop, 2217 4th St., N.W. Wash., D.C. 20059.



## BOOK REVIEWS

### Paul Robeson All-American

"When Paul Robeson died, it marked the passing of a magnificent giant whose presence among us conferred nobility upon us all."

The speaker was Sidney Poitier. The occasion was a memorial tribute held in New York's Carnegie Hall, in remembrance of the legendary athlete, actor, singer and spokesman, Paul Robeson. Such celebrities as Poitier, Brock Peters, and Pete Seeger gathered together in New York to offer their final farewell to Robeson whose death on January 23, 1976 marked the end of a brilliant career that spanned half a century and four continents.

Despite the attempts of then Senator Joseph McCarthy and the witch-hunters of the 1950's "Red Scare" to silence the great voice of Paul Robeson by labeling him a Communist, today his memory is still alive and burning brightly. "**Paul Robeson, All-American**," published by The New Republic Book Company.

Ms. Gilliam's book recaptures the fight and spirit of the man, who after being denied his passport for being "a threat to the American Government", told a crowd of 40,000 men, women and children at a Canadian concert, "I stand here today under great stress because I dared, as do all of you to fight for peace and a decent life for all men, women, and children wherever they may be. And especially today I stand fighting for the rights of my people in this America in which I was born ..."

The clouds of obscurity and ignorance that have surrounded the Paul Robeson story are brushed away as Ms. Gilliam presents his life story; his happy youth in a small New Jersey town, his college years at Rutgers where he was elected Phi Beta Kappa in his junior year and twice named a football

All-American, his work on the stage in numerous plays and movies throughout the world and those terrible final years, when because of his political convictions, he became the victim of intense hatred and fear, unwarranted yet very, very real.

After three and half years of research,

Ms. Gilliam's book was published in December 1976, almost a year after Robeson's death and in time for Black History Month, when we recall and revere those Black leaders who have contributed to the makings of our country. Paul Robeson was truly one of those leaders.

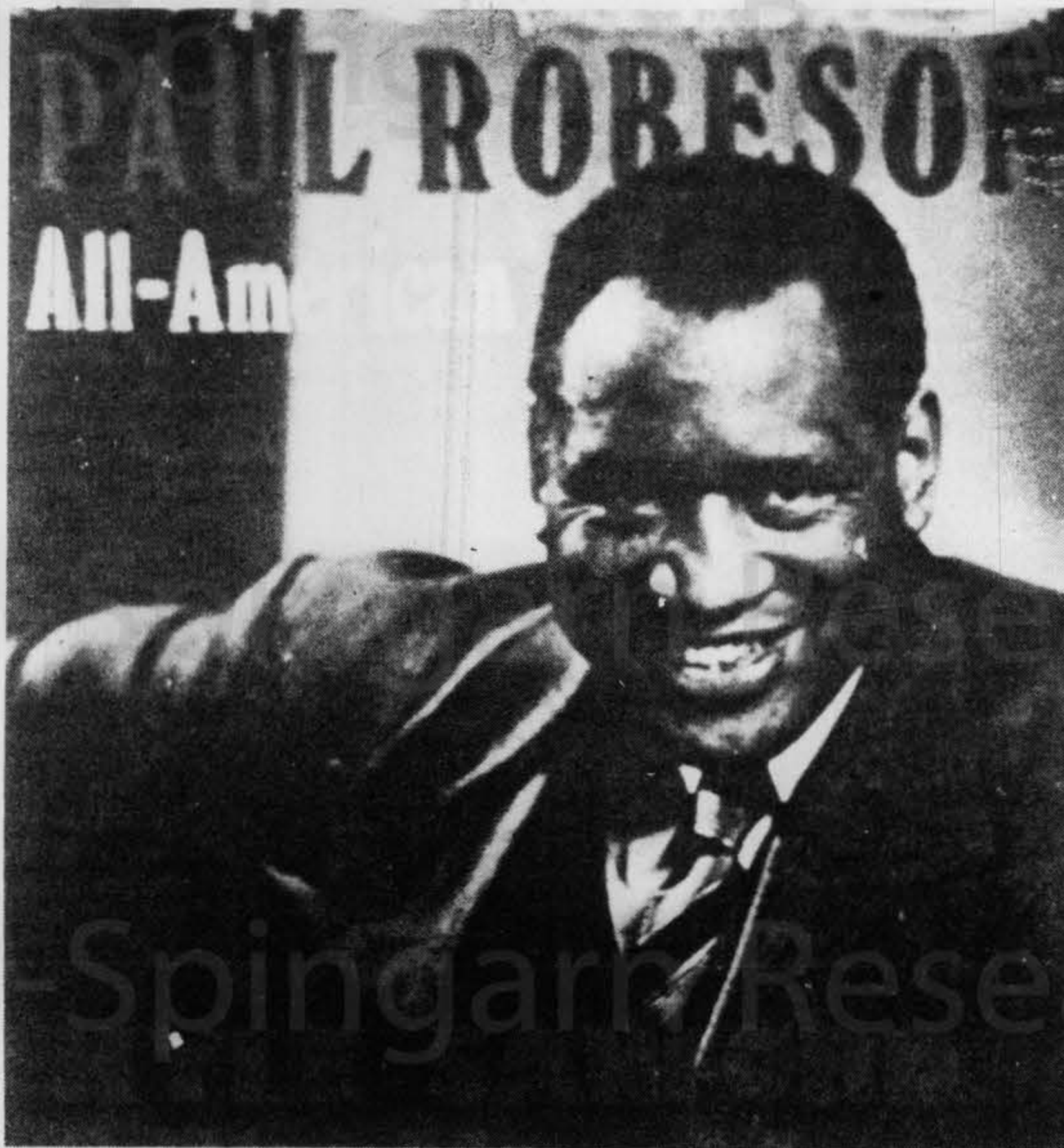
In an interview with Ms. Gilliam, she stated that she had never met Paul Robeson but she felt his was "an important story that had not been told". She said that she had first become interested in Robeson when The Washington Post asked her to prepare his obituary.

As she delved deeper and deeper into his background, she said, "the more I found out, the more I became interested. That is when I knew I had to do the book."

Her deep interest in the subject is evident, as Ms. Gilliam has put together a sensitive, well-documented and moving account of Paul Robeson's life and times. The reviews of the book have all been good; in fact, as further testimony to its timeliness and worth, "Paul Robeson, All-American" is on the reading list of several classes in the School of Communications at Howard University.

It is Ms. Gilliam's hope that this trend will develop and continue with her book being used on all college campuses as a guide and historical reference to one of the greatest men who have ever lived, Paul Robeson. Truly, it is a great book that finally tells the real story of a man the world will never forget.

By Cathy Bell



Paul Robeson

### Toward A Better Understanding cont.

continued from page 2

It is however not a problem to stress redundantly, for although the White media may not find it to their advantage to give coverage of Africa, the same should not be the position of the Black media, in particular the Black Press.

Realizing such, The Hilltop has provided coverage of FESTAC in this special Black History edition of EXTENSIONS Magazine thereby recognizing that history is in fact being made during our time.

We have been privileged to have sent two members of our staff, Vance Hawthorne, and Calvin Reid, to attend FESTAC and give it the recognized coverage that it highly deserved.

In doing so we hope that the importance of FESTAC will be revealed and though it has not received an abundant amount of coverage from the White media, it is anticipated that its prominence and consequences will be respected and help to bring us toward a better understanding.

## CULTURAL FRAMEWORKS

From the west

Clouds come hurrying with the wind

Turning

Sharply

Here and there

Like a plague of locusts

Whirling

Tossing up things on its tail

Like a madman chasing nothing.

Pregnant clouds

Ride stately on its back

Gathering to perch on hills

Like dark sinister wings;

The Wind whistles by

And trees bend to let it pass.

In the village

Screams of delighted children

Toss and turn

In the din of whirling wind,

Women —

Babies clinging on their backs —

Dart about

In and out

Madly.

The Wind whistles by

Whilst trees bend to let it pass.

Clothes wave like tattered flags

Flying off

To expose dangling breasts

As jagged blinding flashes

Rumble, tremble, and crack

Amidst the smell of fired smoke

And the pelting march of the storm.

DAVID RUBADIRI, in  
Modern Poetry from Africa



## Over 60 Countries Took Part in the Resurgence



The Dance Troupe of Uganda performing at Tafawa Balewa Square in Lagos

Photographs by Calvin Reid

### FESTAC Featured

dance,

art,

drama

and poetry

...this occasion will surely lead to the abandonment of the 'museum approach' to our culture by which men of other cultures consider ours only in terms of prehistoric objects to be occasionally dusted, displayed and studied instead of as a living thing containing and portraying the ethos of our peoples.

Those were the historic words of Nigeria's Head of state, Lt. Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo on January 15 before an overflow crowd of 60,000 at National Stadium in Lagos. And at last — after numerous delays and frustration brought about by a civil war, a

bloodless military coup, and still another coup attempt — the Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture (FESTAC) was on.

And it was to continue for four weeks of nonstop activity, featuring traditional dance, art exhibits, drama, literature, poetry, architectural displays, a colloquium and film from participants originating from the Caribbean Isles to Australia to the white sands of the Sahara.

Over 60 countries took part in this jamboree that was a sequel to the First Festival held in Dakar, Senegal in 1966, known at that time as the World Festival of Negro Arts.

Amidst the pagentry of the opening ceremonies launching FESTAC '77, the Festival President, Commander O.P. Fingsi outlined the immediate and long-range goals of the FESTAC:

I) To ensure the revival, resurgence, propagation and promotion of Black and African culture and Black cultural

values and civilization;

II) To present Black and African culture in its highest and widest conception;

III) to bring to light the diverse contributions of Black and African peoples to the universal currents of thought and art;

IV) To promote Black and African artists, performers and writers and facilitate their world acceptance and their access to world outlets;

V) To promote better international and interracial understanding;

VI) To facilitate a periodic 'return to origin' in Africa by Black artists, writers and performers uprooted to other continents.

In what had to be one of the countless superior performances at the festival, the host country staged a three day Canoe Regatta Water Show on Lagos Creek to the delight of hundreds of observers. 4,500 Nigerian gaudily-attired paddlers and ritual dancers from 8 of the 19 filed past the lagoon in 200

giant canoes elaborately draped with straws.

Other memorable feats included the unearthly muscular masterings of a variety of stilt dancers who performed uncanny acrobatics while elevated some ten feet in the air. The Republic of the Congo portrayed a genuine snake charmer and Zambia intrigued many an on-looker with a moving 'hunting expedition' drama. There was also the crowd-pleasing show put on by the uninhibited bare-breasted dancers from the Ivory Coast.

Not to mention the expansive renderings of assorted jazz artists from all over the globe.

Needless to say, a grand homecoming it was.

By Vance Hawthorne



## of Black and African Cultural Values



City Life in Lagos

LAGOS, NIGERIA — It was widely publicized under the lofty banner of "the greatest cultural attraction of the century," a showcase summoning 15,000 Black and African participants from all corners of the globe. And in many ways FESTAC 77 more than lived up to its advanced billing, organizational snags and postponements notwithstanding.

But, although FESTAC symbolized a grand homecoming for displaced peoples of African descent, the majority of the inhabitants based in the host city remained untouched and oblivious to festival proceedings — for the daily rigors of surviving in Lagos demanded their full attention.

Indeed, FESTAC was overshadowed by both the sweet and sour aspects of citylife in this sweltering coastal city situated a mere six degrees above the equator.

Visiting Lagos for the first time is

myth-shattering experience that shoves aside the romanticized beliefs and preconceived notions of the motherland.

Lesson one of the rude awakening is witnessing the open sewer system of Lagos, which has earned reputations of the "worse city in Africa" and the "Calcutta of Africa." Sewers here are nothing more and nothing less than trenches flanking both sides of the road, filled with greenish, repulsive slime that has accumulated over the years. Boards laid across the ditches provide passage over these mini-moats, leading to thatched-roof and huts and shanties, which oftentimes provide shelter for up to 15 persons.

The stench emanating from these cess pools is a constant reminder, wherever traveling in the city, that Lagosians are without many of the conveniences afforded those in Western society.

Lagos appears to be a city on the cusp of two worlds; with one leg in the present and one leg in the past. It is symbolic of a society in transition, struggling to play catch-up overnight in a technologically advanced world that has left it behind. One FESTAC official described the paradox of Lagos as "the crisis of our existence," in reference to the face that Nigeria is a former British colony still on the road to recovery.

There are very few paved roads in Lagos, and stop signs, street lights speed limits and garbage collection are virtually nonexistent — which only adds to the legendary, perennial traffic jams that plague the city. Known as the "eternal go-slow" to local residents, cars can be seen lined up bumper-to-bumper for miles as they spew out exhaust and vie for position with motorbikes and pedestrians darting in and out of traffic.

Horns honk ceaselessly while missing passers-by by millimeters, which is typical of the frantic pace that is Lagos. Yet, many believed that there had been tremendous improvements in the flow of traffic since the military government issued an order two months prior to FESTAC's opening which staggered the days on which certain autos could be on the streets. To enforce the decree, policemen used braided horsewhips on drivers who chose not to conform to the new rule.

One huge factor which compounds the clogging of the capillaries that snake through the city is the dilemma of the telephone system. There are very few installed, and those that are in place seldom operate properly. Thus, whenever business or social calls must be conducted people hop in cars, buses, taxis and the like in order to get where they to go.

In the United States power failures and shortages make banner headlines and trigger mass panic. However, in Lagos, periodic blackouts are an accepted way of life. Many homes are without power or running water, and the availability of hot water, television and other electrical appliances are considered luxury items.

Lagos is a city marked by stark contrasts and extremes. Though it has its modern sections, some neighborhoods feature estates adorned with marble-encased gates. Lime-green lawns are lined with palm trees and two Mercedes

Benz' (complete with leopard skin interior) grace the driveway. Yet, right down the street, tin-roofed shacks can be seen, housing babies with bloated bellies and extended navels.

The city also appears to be a conglomerate of rural and urban societies, and is literally swarming with humanity. (Nigeria has one-fifth of the population of the entire continent of Africa and it is evident that a large percentage reside in Lagos). At the ultra-modern Tafawa Balwa Square race track, twin towers stretch skyward, and the immaculate National Theatre would rival the Kennedy Center. But at any time of day herds of cattle may amble down the road passing these structures, followed by a congregation of goats. Lizards skitter about underfoot and scale the walls of buildings. Also, it is not uncommon to witness chickens pecking about the dirt roads.

Though the average temperature year round is 87 degrees, the heavy humidity is a parasitic burden that saps the energy of Lagosians and induces many into taking spontaneous "Nigerian siestas" wherever space allows. Thick, almost impenetrable swamp is prevalent in many areas surrounding the city, and jungle exists, too — with elephant grass up to 15 feet high.

The climate is marked by two distinguishable seasons — the dry season (from October through April) and the rainy season, which lasts from May to September. During the latter stretch, torrential downpours transform the dirt roads into muddy quagmires, which, needless to say, adds to the miseries of the Lagos traffic tie-ups.

Women and children walk around toting their wares neatly balanced on top of their heads while babies ride contentedly strapped to their mothers' backs. Men labors can handle up to 100 pound sacks — with no hands, naturally.

Despite its many drawbacks, Lagos has an infectious charm of an African

city alive with perpetual motion and activity. Talking drums reverberate throughout the city as people walk around decked out in every colorful print imaginable.

Lagos' open air makrets are an equally fascinating sight. Comprised of a collection of tin-roofed shelters, merchants sell everything from fruit, breaks meat, appliances, and all the basic needs. Sabo and Oyinbo markets are the largest of the open air centers in Lagos, which have to be considered a fruitarian's utopia. Plump, succulent pineapples, papaya, fresh bananas, plantain, yams, coconuts, oranges, and grapefruits are available in abundance each day; and for cheap prices. The purchase includes complete service to the car. But instead of pushing a shopping cart, a young lady carries the goods balanced perfectly atop her head.

The majority of Lagosians embrace the Moslem religion and about one-third of the people worship Christianity. However, persons of all religious faiths recognized and celebrate Christmas. In fact, several shanties and huts can be seen decorated with assorted tinsels and make-shift decorations in late December. Kwanzaa, the traditional African holiday celebration that is gaining popularity in the states, is unheard of in Nigeria.

Though the people of Lagos are caught up in the intense competition of survival in this over-populated coastal city, crime and violence is held to a minimum. This asset is directly attributed to the traditional beliefs engrained in their heritage. Normally, if a person is seen stealing something, yells of "Thief!! Thief!!" will alert the people in the streets, who will rally together and beat the thief — usually to death. Armed robbery is punishable by death by firing squad in Nigeria.

CITY LIFE see page eight



City life in Lagos, Nigeria





African people singing, dancing  
and living the many sights of  
FESTAC 77.

Photo Essay  
by Calvin Reid







Randy Weston in Concert at the National Theatre

CITY LIFE from page five

Another part of "cultural shock" in reverse that greets the American tourist in Lagos is the evidence of Western influence. While many Blacks travel to Africa with the hope of shedding some Western values, many Nigerians especially the youth, were ready to scoop up those same rejected values.

Platform shoes are a hot item here, with heels ranging up to ten inches high. *Ebony* magazine, *Black Star* and others are read widely, while the Jacksons and other Black American musical groups are worshipped. Tee-shirts identifying with American football and other sports are a common sight. (One particular individual sported a shirt which read: "Los Angeles Dodgers Basketball.")

On the other hand, many Nigerians stare hard at dark and light-skinned Blacks from the states and utter "oyin bo" — which means "European white man" in Yoruba, an ethnic group. And yet there are occasions where US Blacks are referred embarrassingly to as "oga", or "master."

Though Nigeria has a military government, all indications seem to show that the brand instituted here is not the stereotyped, tyrannical regime that lops off heads at the drop of a hat. The press here is quite outspoken, as evidenced by its instrumental role in denouncing the high ticket prices at FESTAC events, which resulted in price slashes that allowed persons with average incomes to attend the jamboree.

The government has promised civilian rule and national elections by 1979, and a constitution is now being drafted. That perhaps could be the first step to achieving the desperately needed stability in this country with unlimited potential.

By Vance Hawthorne



## Musicians

The Second Festival of Black and African culture has officially ended. It is now the time to assess its level of creativity and impact. What calibre of artist represented African-American expression in each discipline? How were they received critically and popularly?

As the second largest concentration of Africans outside the continent, African-Americans were necessarily scrutinized by African critics. This was expected and welcome. In the final press conference in Lagos, Dr. Donaldson, Chairman of the U.S. zone committee stressed the point that a "big name" policy was avoided and "grass-root" community workshops as well as avant-garde performers were actively recruited.

This was a welcome relief from State Department hand-picked delegations dispatched to international events that usually reflect the tastes and sensibilities of middle class white America. This kind of biased selection process serves to cluster together an element as conservative in their politics as in their aesthetics.

I'm going to quickly review a cross-section of the U.S. musicians. The non-stop schedule of performances (many conflicting) made it possible to catch every important performance. So some guys will be left out.

Jazz or African-American creative music is probably the black Americans most profound gift to world music. However due to racism and commercial exploitation the most creative of our contemporary musicians are ignored when it comes time for the polls, awards, and prestigious international events.

For once this did not happen. One of the musical groups to perform was the Milford Graves Duo. Graves is one of the important musicians to emerge during the 60's. Graves has hit with the giants of the new music, including Don Pullen, Archie Shepp, Rosewall Rudd, Andrew Cyrille and others. He was accompanied by Alto saxophonist Hugh Glover.

The Duo performed the 2nd week of the sports hall. The crowd was small but surprisingly sympathetic to the music presented to them. Graves is a master drummer reminiscent of Sunny Murray. The music was totally improvised, without any of the crutches of western musical theory.

Graves rides over a very spare set of traps, without high-hat and only a single cymbal. Glover is an iconoclast. Destroying European myths and exalting the saxophone tradition, he literally squeezes sounds out the horn that were never meant to be produced.

The music was well received. Graves injected dance into the set. Using the concept of African dance as interpretation of life he improvised a warrior dance inspired by Muhammad Ali. A tribute to a contemporary black warrior.

The Art Porter Trio presented black creative music in a different context. 4/4 tempo, 12 bar blues, pop tunes and much swing. The group included Art Porter; piano, Larry Ross; drums, Carwin Pleasant; bass.

Joining them was Ms. Brenda Joyce of Washington, D.C. who glided through a set of standards with professional aplomb in spite of the horrible acoustics of the Sports Hall. A superb drum solo by brother Ross brought the audience to its feet. Nigerian audiences are not shy about showing their appreciation to exemplary performers.

Without a doubt the most eagerly awaited musical performer was expatriate Randy Weston. Weston a brilliant jazz pianist has lived in Morocco since the early sixties. He has played with most of the major African musicians around the continent and returns infrequently to the states to record. He performed solo piano at the National theatre before a capacity crowd.

Weston attacks a Steinway grand as if it were a drum. Beating out rhythms and smashing out chordal clusters. He can relate the entire African-American piano tradition. He romped thru a set of Boogie-woogie, Stride, and Barrel-house blues, as well as striking tributes to Duke Ellington and his stylistic mentor Thelonius Monk.

The set was closed out with a jam session of African musicians from both sides of the Atlantic. Weston has long been an object lesson in the cultural unity of African people, that night the love flowed from the audience and was returned through fingers of Ivory keys.

Some of the really exciting things about the US contingent was its youth, the relatively unknown performers, and the high level of creativity and professionalism their performances exhibited. Troy Robinson brought his Big Band from California manned by

young musicians he put together at the Communicative Arts Academy in Watts California.

These young brothers are Badd! Serious musicians playing serious, exciting, and creative music. Troy Robinson is the leader, writes the music, guides and develops an impressive array of young black musical talent. Brothers Ricky Washington and Norty Dedman are Trane and Bird respectively.

Christy Smith beats a Bass to death. Altoist Sabu knows the blues and Eric Dolphy too. If anybody is interested in hearing real Big Band music with excellent scores try bringing Troy Robinson and his creative musicians of Watts California to D.C., soon.

Jazz violinist Michael White put on a pleasant if uninspired performance in the conference hall at the National theatre. The Band played well out of a jazz-rock bag but never really generated real excitement.

The day to day material conditions of the artist are as much a part of his creation as paint, saxophone, or writing pen. Consequently the black artist creates from a revolutionary stance. His art speaks to the very real conditions of oppression that African people face around the world.

Nation Afrikan Liberation Art Ensemble of Washington, D.C. has made this commitment to Art and revolutionary politics. They brought their multi-media ensemble to Lagos and played at the Theatre. The music was good in spite of the microphone problems that plagued the group on some tunes.

They were also invited later in the week to perform at the Africa Shrine, the Lagos nightspot that is musical home to Fela Anikulapo Kuti, who extended his personal invitation to the group and the U.S. delegation.

Sun Ra has held together a Big Band playing truly creative music for close to 30 years. In status he is a giant among composers, instrumentalists, and band leaders. He is as important as Ellington and Basie in the development of black creative music and he seems to get better with age.

By Calvin Reid

## Stevie Stirs Emotion

Famous black American singer Stevie Wonder stirred emotion when he arrived at the airport in Lagos, Nigeria to take part in the Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture (FESTAC) which ended in Lagos February 12.

Standing on the gangway of the huge Lufthansa DC 10 plane which brought him here Mr. Wonder said: "Words cannot express my joy at coming home to Nigeria. This visit is a fulfilment of a life long ambition."

When Mr. Wonder finally set foot

cont. page 9



Stevie Wonder being helped out of the car that took him to his hotel from the airport in Lagos, Nigeria on February 5, 1977.



The parallel drawn to Duke and Basie are not hyperbole. Sun Ra has kept certain instrumentalists with his Arkestra for so long they are regarded as fixtures. Ellington had Johnny Hodges, Harry Carney, Ray Nance.

Sun Ra has the great John Gilmore, Pat Patrick, and Marshall Allen, all fixtures of the band since the early days in Chicago. However like all truly great artists Sun Ra is uncompromising. He refuses to "play down" to audiences. So quite unfortunately a number of the Nigerian audience chose to leave, but those who stayed along with almost the entire US delegation were taken on an interplanetary journey in the musical spaceship of Sun Ra and his Myth-Science Arkestra.

The Arkestra is really more than simply a band. There is Theatre, Dance, the hauntingly beautiful vocals of June Tyson and a murderers Row of instrumentalists. John Gilmore ripped off a spectacular solo that solidified my contention that he is without a doubt the most important and underrated Tenor saxophonist playing today.

He has an almost lunging quality to his sound, arpeggios seem to launch into the air from his horn, and his seemingly peculiar rhythmic concept is a truly original and distinct contribution to the vocabulary of black creative music.

Jazz folks usually bemoan the fact that there is no jazz repertory company performing materials from all eras of the music. Nonsense. A typical Sun Ra performance may include compositions by Jelly Roll Morton, Fletcher Henderson, Duke as well as Ra's own compositions.

The band ripped thru a swing chart possibly by Fletcher Henderson with crackling original solos on trumpet by Akh Tal Ebah and Gilmore on sax. These weren't transcribed solos either, these were legitimate improvisations within the stylistic concepts of that particular era (1930's) of the music.

Sun Ra himself directed the entire production from his keyboards. We

*cont. from page 8*

on the Nigerian soil he shook his head and many Nigerians and black Americans who were at the airport to welcome him wept.

Mr. Wonder who arrived shortly after midnight with a five-man party later went to Fela Ransome Kuti's nightclub, the "Shrine" on Mainland Lagos. Fela and His Africa '70 band gave Mr. Wonder a special traditional welcome.

When Mr. Wonder's younger brother Larry helped him (Wonder) to the stage at the "Shrine" there was a big applause.

Then Mr. Wonder announced that he is in Nigeria on a humanitarian mission and not only to entertain. He will be here for two weeks.

Mr. Wonder told the large audience that he would distribute gifts to blind children in Nigeria. "My main goal in life is not to take away the little I HAVE BUT TO SHARE IT WITH OTHERS," Mr. Wonder added.

Later Mr. Wonder said: "The FESTAC is the greatest thing to happen to blacks not only in this century, but since the beginning of time.

"This is the beginning of my life. To be here in Africa for the first time and to know that my brothers in Africa know my name and have listened to my music is great.

"One other reason I am glad I have come to Africa for the first time, is that now I will be able to learn all the untruths we in the United States have been told about our fatherland."

**By Femi Oredein**



Hugh Glowver



John Gilmore

were also privileged to be able to hear him once again at the acoustic piano. Like other great leaders he directs his musicians musically a few notes on the keyboards and musicians change instruments scurry around and a new production is underway. If you haven't listened to him before, shame on you, but there's still time so hurry.

In a pop vein the Roy Ingraham Gospel singers were also well received. They performed at the National Theatre and the Sports Hall. The thumping Bass and syncopated riffs of Gospel are certainly translatable to the African experience and the crowd was responsive and joined in with hand clapping enthusiasm.

Musically the US delegation was superb. I'm leaving out many singing groups but due to scheduling problems and my desire to also see as many continental African groups as possible, it was impossible to catch them all. Creatively the musicians were spectacular, exhibiting professionalism under sometimes trying conditions.

Some equipment was lost, there were technical problems, poor acoustics, and heat, but no one really complained and the problem became submerged in the really beautiful feeling of returning home, a very real sensation of our African "Roots".

Audiences were receptive and ranged from moderately small to overflowing. Music, I think, is that very special cultural link between African people. The Unity within our musical traditions is something that is very obvious, and continuing.

## Overview

The much delayed festival of Black and African culture finally began amid financial controversy and more than a little disorganization. 1,000 performers arrived in Lagos, the Nigerian government took on the responsibilities of feeding, housing and transporting them.

It wasn't easy. The initial disorganization gave vent to frustrated complaints, and accusations from the general public, newspapers and the performers themselves. However the initial chaos slowly but surely gave way to a steady improvement in facilities and schedules.

Small audiences started growing, newspapers made amendments to scheduled performances and lo and behold concerts started on time. In light of the administrative personnel shortages of Nigeria (and indeed most

developing nations) the magnitude of bringing the festival off has been overlooked.

But more importantly some of the most important Black artists and intellectuals gathered together on the continent of their ancestors to assess the present and chart directions for the future.

In literature there were panel discussions by the leading African authors. Nigerian playwright novelist Wole Soyinka headed a panel of African writers that included Kofi Awoonor of Ghana and critic stage Palmer.

The U.S. delegation included poets Angela Jackson, Haki Madhubuti, Ade Olatunji, Malachi Andrews, Joyce Carol Thomas, Jayne Cortez, Ted Joans, the Soledad Prison Poets and others.

One of the most exciting art forms is of course African dance. The frenzied rhythm of the drummer seems to induce the almost trance-like state in the dancers as they shake and move their bodies in studies furor. One of the most exciting venues for watching dance was the immense Tafawa Balewa square, a

sprawling concrete parade ground on Lagos Island. The National troupe of Uganda performed there and gave their interpretations of traditional life in the movements of dance.

The National Dance troupe of Nigeria also was quite impressive. It is composed of Dancers and dances from all of the many Nigerian Ethnic groups. They performed at the Sports Hall one evening and captured the audience and myself. Clothed in traditional garb, turbaned and wrapped in brightly patterned fabric of Nigeria they danced and sang and made you feel as if you'd never left.

The Drummers are important. They are the heartbeat and spark to the soul. They regulate the rhythmic furor and dictate its direction. Drummers like those from the Republic of Chad who mesmerized the audience at the National theatre and made you meowl at their skill and spirit.

The U.S. also sent traditional Dance groups. The Wajumbe dancers from California and the Chuck Davis Company. They also erased that notion that somehow African-Americans have lost their roots.

In Drama, Barbara Ann Teer's National Black Theatre was well received by audiences and critics alike. Actress Vinnie Burrows gave a solo performance at the Sports complex, of works by Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Haki Madhubuti and others. She held the audience spellbound for over an hour, as she spun tales of Black American life, indicted that common enemy of African people and rejoiced in a love that seemed so obvious between African people so long separated.

The Art of African people has a solemn humanity. It shakes the soul and stirs the mind. Black artists seem to reach for that next level, beyond the simply representative to the virtually visionary. Interpreting the events that shape their lives and molding, kneading the raw material of experience into real-poems, real-paintings, real Art. An Art like no other in the World. FESTAC brought these people together and the performances and artifacts were a very physical manifestation of gratitude.

**By Calvin Reid**



Sun Ra in concert at the Sports Hall.



## VISUAL ARTIFACTS

Visual artifacts have always served as a kind of social barometer for researching the development of a given society. Consequently the responsibilities of the painter, writer, photographer, or sculptor is magnified beyond what is generally thought. If we wish to study ancient Egypt we check out the wall paintings and the monumental sculpture.

If someone is interested in the kingdom of Benin, the exquisite Bronzes are as important as anything written. In light of this the visual Arts exhibition of the second Festival of Black and African Culture was double edged. The work served not only to provide a glimpse of the social dynamics of the Pan African world but give insight into the artistic development of the creative communities within individual nations.

The U.S. exhibit included the best Black Artists working today. People like sculptor Valerie Maynard, Painter Romare Beardon, and photographer James Van derZee. There were quite a few Artists included in the showing associated with Howard University. Ceramicist Winifred Owens, instructor in the Art Dept.

The great Painter and Professor Lois Jones Pierre-Noel, as well as the AFRICOBRA (African Commune of Bad Relevant Artists) group which includes several Howard Professors and former students.

Since the Black Arts movement of the late sixties African-American Artists have made a conscious effort to mold a distinctively Black visual art tradition

that not only encompasses their African heritage but recognizes its political implications.

The drawing by Debra Willkins, "Expressions of Black womanhood", captures this duality, also the paintings of Charles Searles "Spirit of the Kings" and



Ceramicist Winifred Owens

Moneta Sleet's excellent photograph "Death."

The Nigerian Exhibition, housed in a separate building, was divided into 3 sections of posthumous Artist CONTEMPORARY, AND STUDENT WORK. The rich tradition of Nigerian Art is best exemplified in the Portrait work of Chief Aina Onabolu (1882-1963), Patriarch of Nigerian Art.

Trained in London and Paris during the 1920's Chief Onabolu was a portrait painter with a serious eye for the subjects he chose. The painting "Ishoh I. L. Oluwole", is indicative of the technique and sensitivity he brought to the medium.

Many of Nigeria's best contemporary Artists are internationally famous.

People like printmaker Bruce Onabrakpeya, known for his almost mystical etchings, Lamidi Fekeye, wood sculptor in the traditional style and especially the Oshogbo Artists.

The works of Buraimoh and Twins Seven Seven have been exhibited and studied widely in the U.S. In addition the future of visual expression in Nigeria looks as exciting as the present Student work was striking, particularly



Prof. Lois Jones Pierre-Noel

the sculpture.

Art as a medium for revolutionary thought is certainly not new. In this century the murals of Rivera and Siqueros, on up to the Black arts movement and the slicing anti-imperialist work of South African artists come quickly to mind. Mozambique's Malantana Ngwenya is the embodiment of the aesthetics of politics.

His drawing "Etnografia" is an exploration into fabric of African thought. The hot candy colored photo-seriographs of Jose Gomez Fresquet of Cuba open eyes and touch the mind. The poly-pattern paintings of Cuban artist Mendive draw the viewer into a world of color, intricate pattern and political struggle.

("Heroic warrior").

Guinean Sculpter Bandian Sidine is a master technician recreating scenes from traditional Guinea in wood and Ivory.

Ghanaian painter Ampofo Anti's piece "The Christian Diviners" hints at an aesthetic link between African painting styles on opposite sides of the Atlantic. His use of color and pattern echo African-American trends in painting.

The European zone and the United Kingdom contributed some excellent work in all mediums. Ms. Amen Gibrila's drawings have a stylized fashion-like quality that contradicts a seething ugliness and irregularity that makes distinctive and interesting their unattractiveness.

Photographer Lance Watson contributes moody figure studies in brooding Black and White prints. Sculptor Taiwo Jegede, born in Nigeria but based in London, works in wood and metal. His work is contemporary in style but his roots in traditional Nigerian style is evident.

This brief review is certainly not comprehensive. However it serves to give notice to a blossoming of Pan-African creativity in the contemporary arts. The criticisms of continental African artists are beginning to crumble. The affected European stylings that hindered the development of truly original indigenous schools of Art are being put aside or used creatively rather than slavishly copied.

As African nations move toward true independence, politically, culturally, and economically the artists (many times themselves a catalyst for decolonization, intellectual and political) as reflectors of social development must also move to a higher level. This was reflected in the artifacts presented and certainly projects a future of original and creative Pan-African aesthetics.

By Calvin Reid

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## Lack of Organization Deems Poor Wealth Distribution

The standard currency of this west African nation is the *naira* and *kobo*, the Nigerian counterparts to the U.S. dollar and cent. (100 kobo equal one naira). One naira is equivalent to 62 percent of the value of a dollar; therefore, upon traveling to Nigeria, an American tourist exchanging \$100 would get 62 naira in return.

Nigeria is considered the richest nation in Africa, due principally to revenue from its vast crude oil reserves. This reputation is highly deceiving however, because there exists a poor distribution of the wealth. The economy is characterized by extremes, with a small percentage of the people controlling most of the money while the majority hold the bare minimum annual incomes.

The conditions that characterize the capital city of Nigeria, Lagos, are a direct reflection of the unequal income disbursement. Some sections of the city have filth-ridden open sewers with garbage heaped along the dirt roads, and malnutrition is prevalent; while other areas on Lagos Island and Victoria Island boast of ultra-modern buildings.

A huge factor that is responsible for the economic dilemma facing this former British colony is the general lack of organization that is present at all levels of the society. Though Nigeria is blessed with the natural resources, they lack the expertise and managerial skills necessary to develop the means of production in order to be self-sufficient. Compounding the problem is the fact the society is not yet computerized. Almost everything is done by hand. Consequently, the nation is heavily dependent on foreign imports and ser-

vices and Nigeria's capital derived from oil flows outside the country.

For example, although Nigeria is the sixth largest oil producer in the world, presently there is only one oil refinery in the entire nation. Thus, oil must be shipped abroad for refining, which results in daily gas shortages and long lines at gas stations.

The presence of U.S. multi-national oil companies in Nigeria is heavy (as exhibited by a billboard sign near



A Lagosian merchant checks over his wares, ready for the bargaining ritual.

FESTAC Village that broadcasts: "Mobil Welcomes You to FESTAC.") Exxon, Shell, Texaco, and BP (British Petroleum) are virtually the only gas stations seen in Lagos.

Other corporations with hands in the Nigerian pot include Coca-Cola, the Chase Manhattan Bank and several British industries. The Xerox Corpora-

tion building located in the slums of the Lagos neighborhood of Ilupeju is a stark contrast to the average housing in the area.

Steel, piping and other construction materials are bought from various European countries; Bulgarian contractors managed and built the showpiece of the FESTAC jamboree, the immaculate National Theatre.

A not-so-secret black market operates in Lagos, which constitutes their auto-

However, they are seldom enforced. Merchants who are caught selling goods above the board price level are subject to huge fines (the offense is termed "profiteering").

The majority of goods that are sold on the streets of Lagos involve a price bargaining ritual where the merchant and prospective buyer negotiate until they reach an agreement on a set price. This is especially true of those selling art, jewelry, and clothing materials, which are all carried on top of the head.

As far as Nigeria's economic woes are concerned, there is definitely not a shortage of labor. Nigeria claims one-fifth of the population of the entire African continent. This manpower overflow is one reason for lower salaries for laborers since the supply of labor is so much greater than the need for workers.

People still flow into Lagos from the rural areas of Nigeria thinking jobs will be available, much similar to the mass exodus of Blacks from the South to the "promised land" of the North seeking employment back in the 1930s and 40s. Called "Squatters", people migrate into Lagos and stake out a claim on land — wherever space is available. They proceed to build shelters which double as shops to sell their wares.

Also, there is no welfare system in Nigeria. (When queried on this subject, a University of Lagos professor shrugged his shoulders and said, "Who would manage it?") There is no USO, no sales tax on any goods and services.

By Vance Hawthorne

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## Colloquium Notes

One facet of FESTAC that was regarded by many to be the most significant and relevant aspect of the festival was the colloquium plenary sessions. In daily meetings at the National Theatre, Black intellectuals discussed issues and read position papers under the theme of "Black Civilization and Education."

Ron Walters, a professor in Howard University's Political Science Department and a U.S. delegate to the colloquium, appraised the first week of the sessions by saying, "It appeared that many delegates were merely pushing the official line of their country. There really wasn't a free exchange of ideas."

Walters' views were borne out when Brazilian professor and painter Abdias do Nascimento's paper was rejected by colloquium organizers because he was said to be "propagating ideological beliefs." In his paper entitled "Racial Democracy in Brazil: Myth or Reality?", Nascimento stated that although Blacks make up over half of the population of Brazil "most remain the lower levels of society, having no access to education or housing facilities."

In a later session Nascimento was allowed to read a statement, in which he defended his paper. He also urged that "in all Pan-African settings, Portuguese must be used as a

working language" since a large percentage of Blacks around the world speak Portuguese.

Ron Karenga, another U.S. representative who is a professor of Afro-american studies at the University of San Diego, told the colloquium audience that it is time for people of color take a hard look at themselves.

"We have a tendency to blame the white man for all our problems," said Karenga. "But we must have the courage to be self-critical, and then be self-corrective."

Further into his written statement he asserted that "the veil must be pulled off the elite" who rule several African countries while the masses of the people rot in poverty. Karenga added that all African peoples should "stop labeling and generalizing Black Americans", in reference to accounts in several of Nigeria's leading daily newspapers implying that U.S. Blacks involved with FESTAC might have connections with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Karenga also suggested that U.S. Blacks move to "strengthen Afro-american lobbying to make it the most effective in the world."

Overall, the colloquium was well-attended, and FESTAC officials made plans to draft a final report documenting the colloquium's proceedings. Col. Amadu Ali, chairman of the colloquium, said records

would be forwarded to all African and Black governments plus Black communities outside of the continent. In addition, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations would be sent copies of the final report "for future research for generations to come," according to Ali.

The final report included recommendations for adopting an African language as a universal language. Karenga had expressed in his position paper that the common language be Swahili. Other suggestions in the final report concerned the plans for establishment of a Pan-African University in Africa.

Earlier Wole Soyinka, considered to be a giant in Nigerian literature, expressed some reservations about delegates chosen for the colloquium sessions. "It is a pity that certain important names in Black thought are missing from the list of colloquium participants," he observed.

By Vance Hawthorne



Nigerian National dance troupe



Prof. Abdias do Nascimento

## FESTAC Boycotted

**T**he realization of FESTAC was undoubtedly the most single important event in the 17-year history of the former British colony of Nigeria; especially in light of the numerous delays and postponements of the festival, which was originally scheduled to come off in 1971.

In spite of its significance, many of Nigeria's most respected artists, performers and members of the "intellectual community" chose to boycott FESTAC activities for various reasons.

One such person was Dr. N.A. Kass, a professor of engineering and computer science at the University of Lagos.

In an interview at the faculty clubhouse at the University, Dr. Kass said, "The 2.5 billion naira (about 4 billion U.S. dollars) that was reportedly the amount devoted to conducting an entertaining event could have gone toward more constructive matters in upgrading the conditions of the people."

Dr. Kass spent 11 years in the United States obtaining his post-graduate degrees and also worked with the Apollo Space Program with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

"Our number one problem is management," said Dr. Kass. He added that Nigeria, blessed with vast oil reserves, "has so much money that we don't know what to do with it. I would wager that 60 percent of the funds authorized for FESTAC were misappropriated."

Continuing, he said, "Nigeria needs to construct adequate roads and sewer systems; our people need to be fed; our tremendous housing

shortage must be alleviated. Laos needs to be cleaned up—the people have never known cleanliness. These should be our priorities, not a showpiece festival."

Dr. Kass was attending Columbia University and working on his doctorate during the student uprisings there. He said that many of the Black students who staged the armed takeover of the Administration Building at Columbia that received national attention in 1968 were close colleagues of his.

After working as a telecommunications expert with the Apollo project Dr. Kass said that he returned to Nigeria "ready and eager" to use his expertise gained in the States to institute a communications system in his home country. He emphasized that one of Nigeria's biggest drawbacks was the lack of a competent and complete telephone system. And it was at this stage that he hoped to start.

"I talked with several officials in the military government about my plans to institute the phone network—many times," said Dr. Kass. However, he said that government officials were not very receptive to his ideas. "I was told Nigeria's problems were 'political' in nature and that my services were not needed."

Dr. Kass believes that Nigeria's key to future development lies in achieving "a sense of order" which might begin with the stability provided by a constitution. Currently a constitution is being drafted, and the federal military government has promised national elections and civilian rule by 1979.



Colloquium session in the Conference Hall of the National Theatre



Maulana Ron Karenga